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'Join postal savings schemes both for individual and National benefit'

Message of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami on World Thrift Day - 29.10.2019
(*English Translation*)

Every year October 30th is celebrated as 'World Thrift Day' to impress upon the people the importance of thrift and to promote the savings habit.

Valluvar Perunthagai, in his Kural, stresses the importance of thrift by saying that there is no harm even if the means of income are meagre if expenditure does not exceed the income.

"Aakaaru alavitti thaayinung kedillai,
poakaaru akalaak kadai."

Parents should educate their children on the importance of savings and encourage them to adopt the habit. People should set apart a portion of their income for future needs by keeping in mind the adage, 'Today's savings, tomorrow's safety'.

By investing their hard-earned money in the safe and high-yielding postal savings schemes, the money saved by people in driblets, not only multiplies several-fold but is also utilized for scheme works aimed at the country's development.

I affectionately request the people on this 'World Thrift Day' to uplift their lives by joining the small savings schemes operated through post offices.

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"As students, however much you might have studied, it is imperative that along with your academic learning you also equip yourself with life skills for your knowledge to become full-fledged."

Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami
- Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

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First Wrapper

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** had announced that November 1st, the day the Tamil Nadu State was formed will be celebrated as "Tamil Nadu Day". Accordingly Tamil Nadu Day was celebrated as a Government function at Kalaivanar Arangam in Chennai on 01.11.2019. The function was organized by the Tamil Development Department. The Hon'ble Chief Minister participated as Chief Guest and presented prizes to dignitaries who had fought for the annexure of certain places to Tamil Nadu.

Hon'ble Chief Minister eloquently puts forth antiquity, richness of Tamil culture and history

Speech delivered by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami,** at the "Tamil Nadu Day" function, held at Kalaivanar Arangam, Chennai on 01.11.2019 (*English Translation*)

I bow before Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma and am happy to participate in the "**Tamil Nadu Day**" function today being celebrated with enthusiasm, as per my announcement.

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru.O.Panneerselvam, who has given a special address on this special occasion;

Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries, Personnel and Administrative Reforms, Thiru. D.Jayakumar, who is gracing the function with his presence;

Hon'ble Minister for Tamil Official Language, Culture and Archaeology, Thiru.K.Pandiarajan, who is responsible for organizing the function in a grand manner.

Hon'ble Ministers, Hon'ble Deputy Speaker of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, Hon'ble Government Whip, Hon'ble Chairmen of various boards, Respected former Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Hon'ble former MPs, MLAs, office-bearers of co-operative societies, former Members of various local bodies and the Chief Secretary, who welcomed the gathering and the Secretary of the Tamil Development and Information Department, who is to propose the vote of thanks, Government employees, Tamil Scholars, Tamil Enthusiasts, Members from the Print and Visual Media,

At the outset I welcome you all for the function.

At present, various days are celebrated both in India and Internationally to commemorate the Birth and Death Anniversaries of great men and scholars and in memory of various incidents. These days are observed to recollect the services of great men and women to society and to encourage and motivate the youth to follow their path. "Tamil Nadu Day" is celebrated to recollect the hard battle fought by Silambu Selvar M.P.Sivagnanam, Thalapathy Vinayagam, Mankalankizhaar, Marshal Nesamony, Thiruvalangadu Thirumalai Pillai, Tiruttani Rashid, P.S.Mani, Sam Nathaniel, Thozhar Jeeva and many others, who were responsible for the present borders of Tamil Nadu. On this memorable day, I extend my best wishes to you all.

Many kings ruled Tamil Nadu that had borders far and wide. Significant among them are the *Cheras, Cholas, Pandiyas, Velir, Pallavas, Chalukyas, Vijayanagar* and *Naicker* kings. We learn from history that these kings who ruled Tamil Nadu had trade relations with Greece and Rome. There are accounts that Kings who ruled Tamil Nadu invaded regions up to the Himalayas and hoisted their flags in the Himalayan peaks to register their victories.

Tamils had also conquered many countries in the Far East and set up their rule. By assessing the current of the sea, they were able to build ships. They were global pioneers in ship building. They went to many countries in the Far East, propagated Tamil culture and practices and also did business with them. During the *Chola* period it is said that the flag of *Cholas* fluttered over the entire Eastern Coastal Plains and that is why the region is known as Coramandel coast.

Both the history of Tamil Nadu and the culture of the Tamil people are very ancient. Language scholar Devaneya Pavanar has explained through his research that the first man on earth was from Pullimankombai, born in Tamil land. He said that Tamil was widely spread with primacy and excellence from Venkata Hills in the North to Kumari in the South.

So far the antiquity of Tamil history was explained only through literature. But in confirmation of the ancientness of Tamil, in *Pullimankombai* in Theni District and *Porunthal* in Palani, memorial stones and mud pots were found. Now the *Keezhadi* excavations in Sivagangai District have brought to light the Vaigai River Civilization. Through this it has been confirmed that Tamil Brahmi letters are earlier than the Brahmi of Asoka's period. It has been proved that in the Indian continent, the earliest known writing system was in Tamil society.

After the formation of East India Company by the British in Madras in 1639, a new chapter began. Exploiting the strife among the small kingdoms, the British adopted divide and rule policy and slowly extended their domain and brought the entire State under their control. During the British period, Tamil Nadu with the inclusion of certain parts of Andhra, Karnataka and Kerala was known as Madras Presidency in English and Madras *Maagaanam* in Tamil. The Madras State, consisting of a majority of Tamil people, was formed during the reorganization of States in 1956.

Thiyagi Sankaralinganar demanded that Madras State should be named Tamil Nadu, undertook a fast unto death and sacrificed his life.

Perarignar Anna, demanding that the Tamil land should be named Tamil Nadu placed several documents in support of his arguments in the Rajya Sabha and they were appreciated by other Rajya Sabha Members.

In his speech, Anna quoted extensively to prove his claim that the name Tamil Nadu was referred to in the *Sangam* classics. For example, *Paripadal* refers to Tamil Nadu as the land surrounded by seas on three sides.

When a Member asked what he would gain by changing the name, Arignar Anna replied that it would gratify the sentiments of the Tamil people. We would find happiness that an ancient Tamil name is becoming current in the speech and hearts of the people today. Anna asked whether this was not enough gain from as small a thing as a name change.

Arignar Anna said though there was nothing wrong in continuing the name Madras, the name change (of Tamil Nadu) was essential for the sentiments attached to it, for the name's individuality and for its antiquity. If one spoke of Madras nobody would know whether one was referring to the city or the State headquarters. On the other hand, If the name was changed, then it would be clear that Tamil Nadu meant the State and Madras its headquarters. All the confusion would be automatically cleared, Arignar Anna said authoritatively.

After Arignar Anna came to power in 1967 and the Government was formed under his leadership, he put his earlier arguments into action by adopting a resolution in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on July 18, 1967 naming Madras State as Tamil Nadu. For this the Central Government gave its approval and from January 14, 1969, the name Tamil Nadu became a reality. I am proud to announce that Arignar Anna achieved what he had envisaged.

Hon'ble Amma's Government celebrated January 14th this year as Golden Jubilee Year when the State stepped into its 50th year with the name Tamil Nadu.

Kings of yesteryear contributed a lot for the growth of all the three forms of Tamil, namely *Iyal* (literature), *Isai* (music) and *Naadagam* (drama). They gave due respect to Tamil poets and honoured them according to their talent. Due to this, many works in Tamil were written. The richness of the Tamil language was fostered. There were 3 *Sangams* for the development of the language. It is said that Tamil books and poems written by poets and scholars were released through these *Sangams*.

Thevaram and Thiruvasagam authored by Saiva spiritual stalwarts and *Nalayira Divya Prabandam* by *Alwars* contributed to the spiritual growth of Tamil.

The Tamil language is rich in literature. Hundreds of works and poems under various subjects such as *Pathupattu, Ettuthogai, Pathinenkizh Kanakku* and five *Mahakavyas* have been written.

Thirukkural authored by Thiruvalluvar, which says that all beings are alike in birth, is revered as an ethical work of great universality.

Kaniyan Poongkundranar's verse in *Purananuru* which begins with the line '*Yadhum Oore, Yavarum Kelir*', reverberated in the United Nations. Now this verse has become very popular throughout the world. Tamils have to be proud of this. The Tamil Nadu Government has issued orders for setting up Memorial Pillars for *Kaniyan Poongkundranar* and 6 other Sangam Pulavars at *Mahipalanpatti* in Sivagangai District.

The India-China informal summit in which the Chinese President and Indian Prime Minister participated was held at Mamallapuram,

considered as the greatest example of Tamil Nadu's art and culture. During the summit, our Prime Minister explained the greatness of the Mamallapuram sculptures to the Chinese President. The reception given by the Tamil people and the hospitality shown were greatly applauded by the Chinese President after his return to his country. He sent a thanks giving letter to the Tamil Nadu Government, thus highlighting Tamil culture and hospitality to the entire world.

Every year, the number of tourists coming from various parts of the world to see the innumerable sculptures and paintings in temples and cave temples in different parts of the State including Mamallapuram, is increasing. Similarly, the number of tourists drawn to performing arts like *Bharatanatyam* and folk dances, as well as those captivated by Tamil Nadu's splendorous beaches is increasing. In the four years from 2014 to 2017, Tamil Nadu recorded the maximum number of tourists in the country. For this, the Government of India and the India Today magazine honoured the State Government, thereby proving that the State stands first in attracting tourists to the State.

Like Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar and Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma who governed Tamil Nadu, the present Government also has been giving importance to the development of Tamil and has been implementing various schemes.

Tamil Scholars G.U.Pope and Robert Caldwell had great love for the Tamil language and did research on Tamil classics and also wrote Tamil books that brought fame to the language. *Veeramamunivar*, who hailed from Italy, gave himself a Tamil name and served the language.

I would like to mention some of the steps taken by the Tamil Nadu Government for the development of Tamil.

- ✶ Perarignar Anna organized Second World Tamil Conference in Chennai, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar Fifth World Tamil Conference in Madurai and Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, the Eighth World Tamil Conference in Thanjavur.
- ✶ Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar set up Tamil University in Thanjavur.
- ✶ Every year statues of Tamil savants *Thiruvalluvar, U.V.Swaminatha Iyer, Avvaiyar, Kambar, Ilango Adigal, Mahakavi Bharatiyar, Puratchi Kavignar Bharathidasan, Maraimalai Adigal, Robert Caldwell and Thiru.Vi.Ka*, among others, are honoured by garlanding their statues.
- ✶ Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma implemented her vision of Tamil everywhere through Scientific Tamil. Hon'ble Amma increased the number of awards for Muthtamizh from 7 to 56.
- ✶ The Tamil Nadu Government, which follows in the footsteps of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma announced new awards in the name of *Arutperumjothi Vallalar*, Tamil scholar *Devaneya Pavanar, Karaikal Ammaiyar, Veeramamunivar, Maraimalai Adigalar* and *Ayothidasa Pandithar*.
- ✶ The Tamil Nadu Government sanctioned Rs.10 crore for setting up the Tamil Chair in Harvard University.

- The portal '*Yadhum Oorey Yaavarum Kelir'*, opened by the Tamil Nadu Government for attracting investments from Tamils living abroad, has been receiving very good response.
- Rs.5 crore has been donated by the Tamil Nadu Government for constructing a building in the '*Mayur Vihar*' School of Delhi Tamil Sangam.
- The books of Tamil authors Ilavarasu, Dr.Tamilkudimagan, Mealanmai Ponnuswami , Kavignar Na. Kamarasu, Kavignar Ulundurpettai Shanmugam and Papanasam Kuralpithan have been nationalized. Through this step, the families of the scholars will benefit and the people will get their books at an affordable price.
- The rich vocabulary of Tamil is responsible for the greatness of the Tamil language. All the words used in Tamil have been collected and presented in a portal by name '*Sorkuvai*', which is now functioning successfully. Through this, Tamil equivalent of Whatsup – *Pulanam* and Wi-Fi – *Pagiralai* have been rightly informed to the public.
- Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma retrieved the World Tamil Research Institute at Taramani in Chennai, to globally take forward higher research in the Tamil language. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma also opened the Sanga Thamizh Gallery to present the history of Tamils through paintings and sculptures.
- Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma took steps to revive Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar's Dream Project of the World Tamil Sangam in Madurai by setting up a complex at World Tamil Sangam in Madurai at a cost of Rs.37.25 crore.

I am happy to inform that a number of schemes for the development of the Tamil language are being implemented in the State.

Every year, "Tamil Nadu Day" is celebrated to make people aware of the greatness of the Tamil language and its antiquity .

The Tamil Nadu Government has been rendering service to the Tamil language with the blessings of Puratchi Thalaivi Amma by launching various schemes in the spirit that Tamizh is our breath, Tamizh is our speech, Tamizh is our action, Tamil is the sweet breeze that caresses our sentiments…(*Tamil Engal Moochu, Tamil Engal Pechu, Tamil Engal Seyal Padu, Tamil Engal Unarvil Poonthendral*). I am happy to announce on this day that soon the Government will open a world class Museum at the cost of Rs.12.21 crore to display the artefacts found in *Keezhadi* at *Konthagai* Village in *Tirupuvanam* in Sivaganga District.

Through this Museum, the Tamil Nadu Government, treading the path of Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, will make people understand the ancient culture and antiquity of Tamils and take pride in it.

With this I end my speech, once again thanking and greeting the good-hearted organizers for the excellent manner in which they have made arrangements for this meeting.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

Hon’ble Chief Minister lauds Police Department for excellent work during India-China summit at Mamallapuram and for Athivarathar darshan

Speech of the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** at the function to distribute President’s medals, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister’s medals and Arulmigu Athivarathar special medals, held at Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium, Chennai on 23.10.2019 (*English Translation*)

I bow before the guardian deity of Tamil Nadu, Hon’ble Amma who brought about a renaissance in the Police Force through implementation of innumerable welfare schemes in that Department that preserves the State as a Garden of Peace through good maintenance of law and order.

Hon’ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru.O.Panneerselvam, Hon’ble Ministers, Respected Members of Parliament and Legislative Assembly, Respected Chief Secretary to Government, Respected Additional Chief Secretary in the Home Department, Respected Director General of Police, Directors of Police Department, Commissioner of Police, Chennai city, Officers of the Police Department and members of their families, Students, Newspaper and Media

friends, Elders and Ladies – at the outset, my respects to all of you.

I am extremely happy to have distributed Hon'ble President of India's medals and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's medals as also the Arulmigu Athivarathar special medals to 604 Persons belonging to the Departments of Police, Vigilance and Anti-Corruption, Fire and Rescue Services, Prison, Home Guards and Civil Defence and Forensic Science in the categories of Distinguished service, Meritorious service, Excellence in Public Service, Outstanding devotion to duty, Excellence in Investigation, Excellence in Fingerprint Intelligence and Excellence in Forensic service. I congratulate and offer good wishes to all the medallists.

Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma said: "Whenever I take over administration of the State, not only do I give the Police total freedom but also stress that they should act as per law and justice only. It is my firm belief that no one has the authority to intervene in Police work. Even the Chief Minister, who holds the Police portfolio, cannot intervene in their activities".

Mentioning about the Police Department, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. had stated: "Everyone should reflect where I have placed the Police in my esteem. I consider them as being equal to one's mother, as the very mother who gave birth to me". Such was his regard for this Department.

Our two great leaders had taken many progressive steps to improve Police Department's efficiency and implemented several schemes to safeguard the welfare of Police Personnel. Hon'ble Amma's Government that functions with the blessings of these leaders, continues these schemes.

Through its excellent activities, the Tamil Nadu Police Department detects potential problems in advance, takes precautionary measures and maintains peace in society without any caste/communal disturbance so that the people are not affected. Bestowing greater attention to crime prevention across the State, the Police not only prevents criminal acts but arrests the accused in criminal cases and secures them punishment. This has considerably brought down crimes in Tamil Nadu.

Hon'ble Amma's Government functions with the motto 'Peace, Prosperity, Progress'. For the progress of a state, people of the state should be prosperous. People's prosperity depends on the economic development of

the State. Though there are many factors for achieving economic development, the most important reason is prevalence of peace and safety. Even if all the factors for economic development are present, no development will take place if peace does not prevail. That is why Hon'ble Amma's Government gives the utmost importance to peace, safety and law and order. This has resulted in many industrial establishments making a beeline to Tamil Nadu. I am proud to say that the Global Investors Meet held in the beginning of this year, is a great success.

The Tamil Nadu Police Department has earned a name as the best force in the country. A proof of this is 'India Today' magazine's awards to Tamil Nadu for best maintenance of law and order, overall efficiency and for the Department of Tourism.

On the 11th and 12th of this month (October 2019), Prime Minister of India Shri.Narendra Modi and Hon'ble President of the People's Republic of China Mr. Xi Jinping held discussions at Mamallapuram. It is to be mentioned that both the leaders greatly praised our Police Department for making excellent safety arrangements for this event.

The Hon'ble President of the People's Republic of China stayed in Chennai and made to and fro trips to Mamallapuram on both the days. It is a challenging task to provide protection for a very big leader to travel such a long distance by road. Our Police Department, with its experience and efficiency, managed the task excellently and achieved success.

Chinese officials were astonished at the various tiers of protection set up by our Police Personnel and at their efficiency and lauded our Police, saying, "You have exceeded our expectations". This is a very big certificate of appreciation for the excellent work of the Police Department.

Closed Circuit TVs (CCTV) with digital cameras have been installed in public places and Police Stations to deter crimes in public places, to know the modus operandi of criminals while committing crimes and to ensure transparency in Police Stations.

In Chennai city alone, 1,31,789 CCTV cameras have been installed; in other Districts in Tamil Nadu, 1,79,949 such cameras have been installed. Through this, crimes have largely been reduced; identifying the culprits

and follow-up actions have increased. I request the high officials of the Police Department to go ahead with this scheme and improve Police Vigilance.

I am extremely happy to know that unlawful activities of extremist movements and Maoist organizations have been greatly prevented on account of the precautionary measures taken by the Tamil Nadu Police Department.

The Leader of the Oppostion Thiru.Stalin, has today quoted, through the media, the statistics in the policy note of the Police Department for the year 2017. His statement that the data was erroneous is totally wrong. I wish to state that the details given in the policy note are all correct.

Economic development has brought about an increase in vehicle population resulting in traffic congestion all over the State. To reduce congestion, to prevent road accidents and to deal with all the problems connected with traffic, the Tamil Nadu Police Department is taking adequate preventive steps after examining them in a scientific way. This has helped reduce the mortality rate in road accidents, compared to the year 2016, by 36.40 per cent, not achieved by any other State in India. These actions of the Tamil Nadu Police Department have been greatly appreciated by the Hon'ble Central Minister for Transport and Highways in the Rajya Sabha.

Recently, when Arulmigu Athivarathar gave darshan to devotees at Kancheepuram after 40 years, about one crore devotees visited that city. I wholeheartedly applaud the Police, the Fire and Rescue Services and Home Guard Personnel who worked in co-ordination with the District administration continuously for 48 days, day and night, rain or shine, guiding the devotees to the Lord with gentleness and involvement, to enable them have darshan without difficulty, so as to make this mega event a grand success. I have already distributed 28,000 certificates of appreciation for this work. I am extremely happy to have presented Arulmigu Athivarathar medals now to all the personnel in uniform in appreciation of their excellent work.

In the interest of officers, employees and ministerial staff of the Police Department, this government is giving the timely promotions due to them. In the current year, promotions have been given at the appropriate time to 218 higher officers starting from the posts of Superintendent to DGP, 5,979 Police personnel from the posts of Grade-I Police Constable to Police Inspector and to 305 Ministerial Staff.

Moreover, vacancies in Constable posts for the current year have been filled up; 5,530 Constables have completed their basic training and have joined the Department. Likewise, 227 sub-inspectors (Technology) and 179 sub-inspectors (Finger Print division) have completed their training and been appointed in their posts. The Tamil Nadu government is taking steps to fill up 8,427 vacancies in Constables Grade-II posts. These will be completed soon and the recruited constables will be appointed. Through these measures, vacancies in the Department have been greatly reduced to enable it to work more effectively.

I am gratified that so far 68,000 Constables and their family members numbering about 75,000 have been trained under the Police Well-Being Training started last year.

I am happy to state that a 'Fourth Police Commission' has been set up, as announced by me in the Legislature, to examine and recommend to Government the reforms to be taken up to further enhance the Department's work qualitatively and to retain its premier position at the all-India level.

The Tamil Nadu Police Department has become a model for other State Police Departments in the Country through its efficient performance in all types of competitions held for Police.

- At the All-India Police duty meet held at Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, overall championship title, 13 medals and 3 rolling cups were won for investigation.
- At the global competitions held at China for development of physical and sports talent and for efficiency improvement, 32 medals were won.
- I am happy to learn that at the Southern Zone Revolver Shooting competitions held in Kerala, 4 medals were won, recording an achievement. I congratulate them.

When Police Personnel engage in important criminal investigation, they should plan properly, fix the time and place and act skillfully.

We should always cherish a sense of fulfillment over having completed a job well. After all, one cannot separate the excellence of a work well done from the one who has done it.

The performance of a work turns out to be very good only when it is done with a sense of pride. Perform every action in the right manner. The best safeguard for tomorrow's society is your excellent work today. I am reminded of a story here.

A sculptor was carving a statue for a number of days. He took care even on minute details and was repeatedly rectifying everything. He was sculpting the entire statue very elegantly and beautifully. To onlookers, his minute attention to detail seemed to be needless. They asked him why he was acting in this manner. He replied that one must do every thing not only for satisfying others but also for one's own satisfaction. Seeing the elegance and excellence of the statue, the ruler of the kingdom, installed it in a temple. Those who had been sarcastic about the sculptor earlier realized their mistake and understood that any work will measure up to excellence only when attention is paid to every little detail. I affectionately request you all at this juncture that whatever work we undertake, we should do it extremely well and to our full satisfaction like the sculptor in this story. If we act in this manner, recognition and awards for our work will come to us automatically.

These medals are given to honour personnel in uniform for their sacrifice and duty consciousness. Such events, apart from encouraging recipients to function even better, will inspire others to excel in their work. Once again, I convey my good wishes to all the medallists and members of their families.

I take leave of you, thanking all the good hearts who have made good arrangements for this event and conveying my Deepavali greetings to all.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

Tamil Nadu wins Global Agriculture Award

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru.Edappadi K.Palaniswami congratulated the Hon'ble Agriculture Minister Thiru.R.Doraikkannu when the latter showed him at the Secretariat on 07.11.2019, the Global Agriculture Award presented to Tamil Nadu by the Indian Chamber of Food and Agriculture for being the Best Agricultural State in 2019. The award was presented at a function held at New Delhi on 05.11.2019.

The Indian Chamber of Food and Agriculture is a national body, working on policy and business facilitation in the agriculture sector and on improving the status of agriculturists through encouraging agriculture at the global level. It has instituted a 'Global Agriculture Award' and is presenting it from the year 2008 to encourage and accord recognition to individuals and establishments making the best contribution to agriculture. The leader of the committee that presents this award is the father of the green revolution in India, Thiru.M.S.Swaminathan, and members are internationally known experts.

Many new policies framed by the Tamil Nadu Government, that functions on the lines of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, and many other programmes have increased

farmers' income and agricultural production. Some of the important agri programmes are:

1. Collective farming
2. Integrated collective farming
3. Micro irrigation with 100 per cent subsidy
4. Uzhavan mobile App
5. Movement for long-term and stable rain-fed agriculture
6. Centres for hiring machines
7. Setting up solar powered pump sets
8. Prime Minister's Crop Insurance Scheme
9. Supply Chain Management scheme for vegetables and fruits
10. Tamil Nadu Food Processing Policy
11. Agricultural Produce and Livestock Contract Farming and Services (Promotion and Facilitation) Act 2019.

On account of the above mentioned efforts, food grain production exceeded 100 lakh metric tonnes. By way of encouraging these efforts, Tamil Nadu was selected for the Best Agriculture State Award under the aegis of 'Global Agriculture Award' for the year 2019 and the award was presented at a function held in New Delhi on 05.11.2019.

130th Birth Anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru

On behalf of the Tamil Nadu Government, Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu **Thiru.Banwarilal Purohit** paid floral tribute to a portrait of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru kept near his statue at Kathipara Junction, Guindy, Chennai, on the occasion of the leader's 130th birth anniversary on November 14th. Hon'ble Ministers, Chairperson of the Tamil Nadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation and high Government officials also offered their tribute.

Tamil Nadu's multi-pronged agri schemes reap rich harvest of SKOCH awards

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami congratulated the Agriculture Department for winning the SKOCH Order of Merit. The Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture Thiru. D.Doraikkannu showed the commendation certificates which were given at the SKOCH Award function held in New Delhi on 25.09.2011, to the Hon'ble Chief Minister at the Secretariat on 01.11.2011.

The Order of Merit for the Department is for the Tamil Nadu Government's best performance in implementing the Mission on Sustainable Dry Land Agriculture, Joint Farming System for improving the livelihood of small and marginal farmers, Micro irrigation under the Micro Irrigation Management System, Best Maintenance of Gardens and Parks and e-Thottam.

The Tamil Nadu Government, treading the path of the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has been making consistent efforts to improve the earnings of farmers.

Through the Mission on Sustainable Dry Land Agriculture, about 25 lakh acres of dry land are clubbed into 1,000 clusters of 2,500 acres each, and millets, dhal varieties, oil seeds and cotton crops are cultivated in these clusters through improved practices to get more yield and income to over 10 lakh dry land farmers.

The Government is encouraging small and marginal farmers to undertake joint farming activities, including collective purchase of inputs, collective cultivation and collective marketing of agricultural products. Through this, the livelihood of small and marginal farmers has improved.

The Tamil Nadu Government has been implementing micro irrigation scheme with cent per cent subsidy for small and marginal farmers and 75 per cent subsidy for other farmers. For implementing the scheme successfully and in a transparent manner, the Tamil Nadu Government opened a new portal – Micro Irrigation Management Information System – in the year 2017-2018. The Tamil Nadu Government has given a record subsidy of Rs.735 crore during the financial year. This is the highest subsidy given by a State Government. Through the Micro Irrigation Management System, various activities right from registration of farmers to release of subsidy have been carried out.

The Government Botanical Garden and Rose Garden have been maintained in an excellent manner. The Glass House is the latest addition to the Botanical Garden.

To advertise Horticulture produce and Horticulture inputs of horticulture farmers to consumers, traders and other Horticulture farmers, the Department opened the e-Thottam portal which helps farmers to sell their products at a price fixed by the farmers. Through this, a portal market has been created.

For the successive implementation of the above 5 schemes, SKOCH Order of Merit has been given to Tamil Nadu.

Birth Anniversary of Tamil savant Veeramamunivar

In connection with the birth anniversary of Tamil savant Veeramamunivar, the Hon'ble Minister for School Education, Thiru.K.A.Sengottaiyan, Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries, Personnel, and Administrative Reforms, Thiru. D.Jayakumar, Hon'ble Minister for Tamil Official Language and Tamil Culture, Thiru. K.Pandiarajan, Chairperson of the Tamil Nadu Textbook Society and Educational Services, Tmt. B.Valarmathi, Secretary for Tamil Development and Information Department, Thiru. Mahesan Kasirajan I.A.S., and Director of Information and Public Relations, Dr. P. Sankar I.A.S., paid floral tributes to the portrait of Veeramamunivar, placed near his statue on Kamarajar Salai in Chennai on 08.11.2019.

Hon'ble Chief Minister lays stone for Amma Shooting Floor near MGR Studio

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, at the Secretariat on 01.11.2019, laid the foundation stone for Amma Shooting Floor, to be built with the financial assistance of the Tamil Nadu Government, near the M.G.R.Centenary Film Studio at Payyanur in Kancheepuram District, on behalf of the Film Employees Federation of South India.

At the inaugural function of the M.G.R. Centenary Film Studio, set up by film artistes and workers at Payyanur in Kancheepuram District on 26.08.2018, the Federation submitted a memorandum to the Hon'ble Chief Minister that the State Government should help build an auditorium near the M.G.R.Centenary Film Studio. The Hon'ble Chief Minister, conceding their demand, announced that on behalf of the State Government Rs.5 crore would be sanctioned for constructing the auditorium in the name of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. As a follow up measure, the Hon'ble Chief Minister handed over Rs.1 crore for the project on 16.09.2019 as the first instalment to Thiru. R.K.Selvamani, President of the Film Employees Federation of South India.

In continuation of the announcement, the Hon'ble Chief Minister laid the foundation stone on 01.11.2019, on behalf of the FEFSI for Amma Shooting Floor, to be set up near the M.G.R. Centenary Film Studio at Payyanur with the financial assistance of the Tamil Nadu Government.

Speaking on the occasion, the Hon'ble Chief Minister congratulated the film industry for providing a beautiful studio in the name of Ponmana Chemmal Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. and Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. "I extend my best wishes to you for this. With the opening of the studio, you have initiated a change. Shooting of films can be done within the studio developed by the workers of the film industry. I wish that the studio should develop further and become one of the best studios in India."

Expressing thanks for Rs.6,500 crore invested in one year...

Hon'ble Chief Minister urges industry captains to continue with good investment pitch

Inaugural speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** at the 'Connect 2019' conference conducted jointly by the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) and the Tamil Nadu Government on 07.11.2019 *(English Translation)*.

My obeisance to Goddess Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

I am extremely happy to inaugurate the 18th 'Connect 2019' conference, conducted jointly by the Confederation of Indian Industries and the Tamil Nadu Government.

Hon'ble Minister for Revenue, Disaster Management and Information Technology Thiru. R.B.Udhayakumar, who delivered a special address at this function, Principal Secretary, Department of Information Technology Dr. Santhosh Babu I.A.S., who is gracing this function, Chairman, CII Southern Region Mr.Sanjay Jayavarthanavelu, a great support for organizing this event, Chairman CII Tamil Nadu Mr.S.Chandramohan, Chairman CII Connect 2019 Mr. Suresh Raman, Director, Software Technology Park of India, Chennai

Region Dr.Sanjay Tyagi, Captains of Industries, Delegates and other Dignitaries, Friends from the Press and Media and other delegates – at the outset, I offer my respects to all of you.

The important functions of a Government are framing policies for various sectors, making decisions based on the policies, assisting industrial development, improving the economy, rendering various services to the people, creating job opportunities, handling files and maintaining law and order. Information and Information technology, besides effectively dominating every aspect of governance, has developed to a staggering level, to the satisfaction of citizens. Tamil Nadu is at the forefront in the use and consumption of Information and Information Technology. Advanced efforts made in this direction by every Government Department and agency have yielded good results. Investments have been made on a large scale. As proof of this, Tamil Nadu has been ranked by Niti Aayog in its report as second in the list of innovative States. I firmly believe that this conference will show a good way to recollect past achievements and accomplish more by utilizing the new technologies that are developing.

'Connect' conference is one of the important events conducted jointly by Tamil Nadu Government and CII from the year 2001. This annual conference on Information and Information Technology, I wish to point out, has put Tamil Nadu on the global ICT map.

Hon'ble Amma inaugurated the first edition of 'Connect' in 2001. Hon'ble Amma participated and brought glory to the 'Connect' events that took place in 2002, 2005 and 2011.

I am proud to state that I participated in the valedictory of Connect 2018, conducted by Hon'ble Amma's Government that functions on the lines of Hon'ble Amma, and spoke at the event.

In my address then, I made an appeal to the captains of Industry who were present, to extend continued support by way of fresh investments in Tamil Nadu. In response to my appeal, Tamil Nadu has already received 6,500 crore rupees as investments in the last one year. This has resulted in 60,100 new jobs in Tamil Nadu. IT/ITeS sector exports have increased nearly 10 per cent and employment has increased by 4 per cent in the last one year,

for which I thank the Captains of the Industry. I request you to continue the same support in future also.

I am happy to learn that the central theme of this 18th edition conference "Technology at the Heart of India's $5 Trillion Economy". This is most apt in the present conditions. My congratulations to the organizers for choosing this theme.

As for Tamil Nadu, I had announced, in tune with the central theme of this conference, at the beginning of this year in the Legislative Assembly under Rule 110 that a special centre for skill development would be set up with the help of national e-governance; a command and control centre with geographic information system technology would be set up; a State family database will be established to help receive various welfare benefits and services of the Government in a transparent and effective manner; through one of the developing information technologies – Blockchain – a structure would be set up to detect the authenticity of transactions and all Government data would be kept safely; and through the scheme of 'the Government seeking out people' (*Makkalai Thedi Arasu*), legal documents and certificates will be issued automatically without citizens applying for them. Steps are being taken to implement them. Through this, my dream that people should not visit Government offices for any of their needs but should get all the services at their own residence, will be fulfilled.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma stated: "Tamil Nadu is full of opportunities. This Government also believes in functioning supportively and acting as a facilitator. We will be a State that embraces investors. Tamil Nadu will be a State that delivers."

With pride and happiness I wish to state here that Hon'ble Amma's Government that treads the path of Hon'ble Amma, is also functioning as a Government that welcomes investors with open arms. I wish to mention a few of the achievements of Hon'ble Amma's Government in the field of Information and Information Technology.

❖ New technology companies have been started in Chennai to such an extent that the city has come to be called SaaS Capital of India.

Very big corporate companies too have opened their branches in Chennai. Tamil Nadu's peaceful environment and its human resource capabilities to meet the needs of modern technology are the reasons for this. Lakhs of students complete their education and step out as efficient engineers every year.

❖ Provisions have been made for citizens to get Government's fully computerized services through e-service centres or through their personal computers or smart phones from their own places.

❖ As a trade logo, Hon'ble Amma named the special economic zones in the secondary and tertiary areas as ELCOSEZ. It has become the best place for attracting investment for Information Technology enabled science and connected services in Tamil Nadu.

❖ The Tamil Nadu Government is implementing its scheme of laptop distribution at no cost to students, to help them develop skill in information technology science. So far, 54,19,594 laptops have been distributed to provide students scientific education.

❖ To ensure the creation of Information and Information Technology science institutions in Tamil Nadu on a larger scale, the Government announced last year the ICT 2018 policy on Information Communication Technology. The policy covers many concessions to incentivize investment in the secondary and tertiary areas.

❖ To ensure the creation of an innovative eco-system in the State, the Tamil Nadu

Startup and Innovation Policy 2018 - 2023 was announced.

❖ The Tamil Nadu Government will be releasing the Electronics Hardware Manufacturing Policy shortly. The new policy will enable new start-up companies which will bring lot of investments and jobs and contribute largely to the economic development of the State.

❖ In 2018-2019, software export fetched Rs.1,22,899 crore. This has created 6.50 lakh job opportunities. I am proud to state that Tamil Nadu shines, through this, as one of the States in the forefront in software export and job opportunities.

❖ Under the scheme to provide quality cable services at low rates, a dream project of Hon'ble Amma, 200 TV channels at Rs.130 is being offered. So far set top boxes have been distributed at no cost to 26,36,820 subscribers.

❖ At present, more than 12,000 e-service centres are operating in Tamil Nadu. They offer more than 120 types of services in different fields. So far, 4.81 crore people have benefited through them.

❖ All the Village Panchayats propose to implement the BharatNet scheme at a cost of Rs.1,815 crore in Tamil Nadu to fulfill the aim of 'Growth for All', execute the policy 'Internet in every home' and to make available all Government services to rural people. Through this scheme, the 12,524 Village Panchayats in Tamil Nadu will be linked through optic fibre network. This will facilitate internet facility not less than 1 Gbps to all Villages. It is also proposed to extend High Speed Net facility to all urban areas at a cost of Rs.500 crore through the 'TamizhNet' scheme of the Tamil Nadu Government. These schemes will be implemented in the next 18 months.

I affectionately request you to discuss in detail various ideas like ways of increasing investments in Information and Information Technology sectors, steps to be taken to streamline the financial position of companies and proposals for increasing job opportunities without resorting to retrenchment of labour; and offer constructive suggestions for the development of the Information Technology sector.

I take this opportunity to appeal to everybody present here, to extend your co-operation in establishing new IT industries in emerging technologies like Blockchain, Artificial Intelligence etc., and thereby increase employment opportunity to every family and provide efficient services to every citizen of Tamil Nadu.

Thanking all the delegates who have come here, I extend my greetings for the success of this conference.

I conclude my speech, conveying my appreciation and good wishes to all the good hearts that have arranged this event in a good way.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

Hon'ble Chief Minister hastens steps for Special Grievance Redressal

The Chief Minister's Special Grievance Redressal scheme was announced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami in the Legislative Assembly under Rule 110 on 18.07.2019 and was inaugurated in Salem district on 19.08.2019. Following this, Hon'ble Ministers, Members of the Legislative Assembly and District Collectors received petitions from people under this scheme across the State.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami presided. A review meeting was held at the Secretariat on 06.11.2019 on the action initiated over the petitions received under this scheme.

A total of 9,72,216 petitions have been received under this scheme of which 5,11,186 were accepted; 4,37,492 petitions were not accepted for various reasons. Hon'ble Chief Minister instructed officials to take a decision by this weekend on the remaining 23,538 petitions.

The petitions taken up for consideration include 1,43,993 seeking monthly financial assistance under social security scheme, 1,83,682 relating to patta and land-connected issues, 50,488 relating to village/city infrastructure, 10,108 about Public Distribution System, 12,136 connected with Social Welfare Department, 12,979 about basic amenities/ Public Health/Transport, 6,137 regarding the Departments of Agriculture/Animal Husbandry/ Fisheries, 274 for issue of certificates, 7,671 relating to Welfare of Adi Dravidar and Backward Classes, 7,665 requiring different types of certificates, 1,467 connected with Army Personnel, 1,486 connected with Chief Minister *Uzhavar Padukappu Thittam*, 1,121 relating to natural disaster, 827 relating to the Department of Education, 616 connected with law and order/complaints, 385 connected with welfare of fishermen community, 121 about birth certificates, 46 relating to the grievances of ex-servicemen and 69,975 relating to other issues.

Hon'ble Chief Minister gave the following instructions in respect of the steps to be taken regarding this grievance redressal scheme:

- Speedy action should be initiated on the 23,538 petitions kept pending and a decision should be taken before 15.11.2019
- District Collectors should re-examine the rejected petitions and wherever possible redress the grievances
- Where the petitioners' grievances have been resolved, redressal meetings should be arranged at Taluk level and the Hon'ble Ministers of the concerned District are to distribute welfare assistance to the beneficiaries.
- Beginning with the inauguration of the holding of Taluk-level grievance redressal meetings at Konganapuram Panchayat Union Office, Edappadi Taluk, Salem District on 09.11.2019 with Hon'ble Chief Minister participating, the Revenue Department should direct all District Collectors to take steps to organize such meetings, presided over by the Hon'ble Ministers of that District, before 20.11.2019, for distribution of welfare assistance to the beneficiaries.

110th Birth Anniversary of Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar

On behalf of the Tamil Nadu Government, the 110th birth anniversary of Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar was celebrated on October 30th. In this connection, Hon'ble Ministers, Chairperson of the Tamil Nadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation and high Government officials paid floral tribute to a decorated portrait kept near his statue at Nandanam in Chennai on 30.10.2019.

Madurai exhibition showcases Keezhadi artefacts for public to see Tamil antiquity

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, declared open an Archaeological Exhibition of artefacts excavated at *Keezhadi* village on the banks of River *Vaigai* in Tirupuvanam Division in Sivagangai District from the Secretariat here on 01.11.2019 through video conferencing.

The exhibition located at the World Tamil Sangam complex in Madurai is for the benefit of the common public to see the 6,720 artefacts excavated at *Keezhadi* Village.

The Tamil Nadu Government is giving special attention to establishing in the world arena, the eminence of the Tamil people of bygone times, like its mentor Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

The Archaeological Survey of India conducted excavations in *Keezhadi* Village in Sivaganga District in over 110 acres in three phases during 2014-2015, 2015-2016 and 2016-2017. In this excavation, 7,816 artefacts were excavated, which proved that people lived in Keezhadi Village right from Sangam period.

Based on the findings of the excavation in the first 3 phases, the Tamil Nadu Archaeological Department got the permission from the Central Archaeological Advisory Committee to conduct the 4th phase of excavation at Keezhadi and allotted Rs.55 lakh for the excavation. In the 4th excavation, 34 trenches were formed in which 5,820 artefacts and constructed structures were found. Significant among the artefacts are broken parts of gold

jewels, copper objects, various types of beads, terracotta figurines, objects made of ivory, dice and spindle whorls. Fifty-six potsherds with inscriptions of Tamil letters, 1,001 potsherds with various inscriptions were found. Two ring wells were also discovered.

After the 4th phase of excavation, the Tamil Nadu Government decided to continue the 5th phase of excavation in Keezhadi in an extensive and scientific manner and allotted Rs.47 lakh.

For selecting the 5th phase of excavation, the Archaeological Department of Tamil Nadu Government conducted site inspection using latest scientific techniques. Various types of brick constructions were found. The constructions included open drainage using bricks, closed drainage and the third one of terracotta pipes. These objects showed that best water management was adopted by people at that time. In addition, a 16-metre-long single brick wall, two ring wells formed of circular clay kerbs and tanks made of bricks were found. In addition 900 artefacts including copper coins, iron objects, dices, ivory objects, parts of bones, terracotta earrings and bangles made of conch were found.

If excavation is one of main functions of archaeological research, ascertaining the age of archaeological artefacts is another crucial function. These artefacts were tested in world class laboratories. The carbon samples found in *Keezhadi* were sent to world renowned Beta Analytics Laboratories in Miami, Florida for carbon dating . The analysis showed that these carbon samples date back to 580 BC. So it has been ascertained that 2000-year-old civilization existed in *Keezhadi*. The artefacts show that they were used by a well developed society, and proclaim the technical advances of the period. The artefacts and other objects found in *Keezhadi* show that an urban civilization existed along the *Vaigai* River bed.

So far, one lakh people, researchers, enthusiasts and school and college students have seen the artefacts excavated at *Keezhadi* Village. ■

Free laddu to devotees at Madurai Meenakshi temple

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami inaugurated through video conferencing at the Secretariat on 08.11.2019, the scheme for free laddu distribution to devotees coming to *Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar* temple, Madurai, throughout the day and round the year. The Hon'ble Chief Minister also declared open buildings constructed in the *Arulmigu Balamurugan* temple, Rathnagiri, *Arulmigu Aabathsagayeswara Swami* temple, Alangudi and at *Arulmigu Soorathamman* temple, Peerkankaranai, at a cost of Rs.2.06 crore.

The Tamil Nadu Government, functioning on the lines of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, is executing, works like safeguarding and maintaining the properties of temples that shine as the repository of Tamil culture and seat of spirituality and artistic talent, ensuring daily pooja without any hassle and providing necessary facilities to devotees. Accordingly, the scheme for free distribution of laddu has been inaugurated.

The buildings declared open are: a commercial complex at *Arulmigu Balamurugan* temple, Ratnagiri on a 4,116 sq.ft. plot (Rs.74.50 lakh), a waiting hall to accommodate 150 persons on 2,930 sq.ft. area as a facility for devotees at *Arulmigu Aabathsagayeswarar Swami* temple,

Alangudi, Valangaiman Taluk, Tiruvarur District (Rs.67 lakh) and a Kalyana Mandapam on 4,381 sq.ft. area to host 500 persons at *Arulmigu Soorathamman* temple, Peerkankaranai, Tambaram Taluk, Kancheepuram District (Rs.64.80 lakh).

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also distributed appointment orders to 10 persons as a token of issuing such orders to 96 persons selected for the post of Grade-III Executive Officer in the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment Department by the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission.

Hon'ble Prime Minister thanks Hon'ble Chief Minister for excellent arrangements during India-China Summit

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri.Narendra Modi has thanked the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru.Edappadi K.Palaniswami, for the excellent arrangements made by the Tamil Nadu Government for the India-China Summit, held at Mamallapuram in Kancheepuram District recently.

In a letter to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, the Hon'ble Prime Minister said the reception arrangements and the courteous hospitality shown during the summit reflected our culture and tradition. The India-China Summit was a memorable experience for himself and the Chinese President. The Hon'ble Prime Minister also appreciated the people of Tamil Nadu, the cultural, social and political organizations, the Tamil Nadu Government and the Hon'ble Chief Minister for the excellent arrangements made for the two leaders.

Reminder to Union Ministers to reject Karnataka moves on Mekedatu Project

Text of the D.O. letter of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami,** addressed to Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Information and Broadcasting Shri.Prakash Javadekar and Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti Shri.Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on 09.10.2019

Please refer to my letter dated 10.07.2019 in which I had requested you to reject and return the Mekedatu Balancing-cum-Drinking Water Reservoir Project of Karnataka, as it is against the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal and the judgment of the Supreme Court dated 16.02.2018.

The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal and the Supreme Court have found that the existing storage facilities available in the Cauvery Basin are adequate for storing and distributing water to the lower riparian States as per the monthly schedule prescribed by it. Therefore, the proposal of Karnataka to build a reservoir is ex-facie untenable and ought to be rejected outright. Further, the concurrence of Tamil Nadu and of other co-basin States has not been obtained for the Project.

I would also like to state that Tamil Nadu has filed a Miscellaneous Application before the Supreme Court against the proposal of Karnataka for constructing a Reservoir and also a Contempt Petition against all concerned and the matters are pending in the Supreme Court.

The Expert Appraisal Committee for River Valley and Hydro-electric Projects in the meeting held on 19.07.2019, deferred the proposal of Karnataka's Mekedatu project.

It has been brought to the notice of Tamil Nadu that Karnataka has again approached the Expert Appraisal Committee for River Valley and Hydro-electric Projects seeking approval of the Terms of Reference for Mekedatu Project. The Government of Tamil Nadu once again reiterates its strong objections to the project proposal of Karnataka, as it has no right to construct any reservoir on an inter-State river without the consent of the lower riparian State i.e., Tamil Nadu.

In the above mentioned circumstances, I request you to instruct the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to issue instructions to the Expert Appraisal Committee for River Valley and Hydro-electric Projects not to entertain the proposal of Karnataka and to reject the Detailed Project Report of Karnataka seeking grant of Terms of Reference to conduct EIA/EMP Report for Mekedatu Project.

I look forward to your immediate action in the matter.

Central measures sought to revive Sugar Industry in Tamil Nadu

Text of the D.O. letter dated 24.10.2019 of **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu addressed to **Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman**, Hon'ble Union Minister for Finance.

Dear Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman,

At the outset, I would like to thank you for your initiative in holding an 'Interactive Meeting on Sugar Industry' at Chennai on 10.09.2019 with representatives of the Government of Tamil Nadu, SISMA and the cane growers, taking into consideration the various issues faced by the Sugarcane Growers & Sugar Industry in Tamil Nadu. This has increased the level of confidence amongst the stakeholders.

As suggested by you, a High Level Meeting with the participation of delegation from Government of India, Government of Tamil Nadu, Reserve Bank of India, senior representatives from various banks, SISMA and representatives from Sugarcane Growers' Associations was conducted on 24.09.2019 at Chennai. The various issues of the Sugar Industry in Tamil Nadu and the redressal measures required to bring the Industry out of crisis were discussed in the meeting.

As proposed in the meeting, a Special SLBC Meeting to discuss debt restructuring of the Mills was conducted on 30.09.2019 at Chennai. In the meeting, it was decided to constitute a 'Sugar Mills Revival Committee' with members from Government of Tamil Nadu and the Banks to evolve a mechanism for restructuring the loans owed by the Sugar Mills to banks.

I would like to bring to your notice that the following steps have been taken by the Government of Tamil Nadu for improvement in financial status of the Sugar Industry:

1. Government of Tamil Nadu has provided Transitional Production Incentive at

Rs.200 per MT of cane, over and above FRP, amounting to Rs.134.53 crore to 1,44,882 farmers for the cane crushed during season 2017-2018.

2. Government of Tamil Nadu has also announced Rs.200 crore as Transitional Production Incentive at Rs.137.50 per MT of cane, over and above FRP, for the cane crushed during the season 2018-2019.

3. Government of Tamil Nadu has taken active steps to improve the cane area under Drip Irrigation to about 34,000 *Ha* in the 2019-2020 planting season. The State Government will be providing additional subsidy of Rs.68.35 crore, over and above the funds provided under NADP scheme.

Due to the active steps taken by the Government of Tamil Nadu and the normal rainfall forecast for 2019, planting of cane during 2019-2020 season is expected to increase, which will help the Mills in Tamil Nadu to improve their capacity utilization. The capacity utilization of Tamil Nadu Sugar Industry on an average, is expected to be not less than 45% - 50% during season 2020-2021, which would enable the Mills to move on a positive trajectory.

The following steps are required for revival of Tamil Nadu Sugar Industry:-

1. Restructuring of -

a. Loans availed from Banks / Financial Institutions by Sugar Industry.

b. SDF loans got by Private and Co-operative Mills.

The Banks and Financial Institutions may be instructed to finalise the debt restructuring package soon. Until steps are finalised to revive the sugar sector, Banks / Financial Institutions may kindly be advised not to take any harsh measures under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code or the SARFAESI Act or refer cases to the DRTs.

2. Government of India may sanction additional Sugar Release to Mills in Tamil Nadu, as a special measure so as to improve the financial liquidity of the Mills.

3. Banks may be advised to release loans to farmers for cultivating sugarcane, even if the earlier loans have not been repaid by them. This non-repayment of loans is due to the non-payment of FRP dues by the Sugar Mills.

In order to protect the livelihood of nearly 4 lakh farmers of Tamil Nadu, I request your continued support and favourable orders from the Government of India for reviving the Tamil Nadu Sugar Industry.

Deputy Registrar's office at Mudivaithanendal to serve 175 primary dairy co-operative societies

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru.Edappadi K.Palaniswami declared open through video conferencing at the Secretariat on 05.11.2019, the office building of the Deputy Registrar (Dairy Development) at Mudivaithanendal Village, Thoothukudi Taluk, Thoothukudi District, constructed at a cost of Rs.68 lakh. Also declared open were the buildings of the Departments of Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development and Fisheries, costing totally Rs.39.48 crore.

The Tamil Nadu Government that follows the path of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, is implementing many schemes through the Department of dairy development to achieve the goals of increasing the cattle stock in the State, improving the infrastructure in dairy farms, helping milk producers get remunerative prices for their milk and effecting quality milk sale to consumers at a fair price.

Accordingly, the Deputy Registrar's Office was declared open at Mudivaithanendal Village. This new office will help resolve the problems of about 3,233 members of some 175 Primary Dairy Co-operative Societies in Thoothukudi District and 283 workers, in respect of District Milk Producers Co-operative Union Services at one and the same place.

In his announcement in the Legislative Assembly on 17.07.2019 under Rule 110, Hon'ble Chief Minister said that a new Milk Producers Union with Karur as headquarters will be created out of the Tiruchirapalli District Co-operative Milk Producers Union and likewise a new Union with Dharmapuri as headquarters from Dharmapuri-Krishnagiri District Union, a new Union with Theni as headquarters from the Madurai District Union, a new Union with Thoothukudi as headquarters from Tirunelveli District Union and a new Union with Cuddalore as headquarters from the Villupuram-Cuddalore District Union for getting timely service from Milk Producers Unions and help consumers to get near their

residence, quality milk and milk products immediately and without any hassle. In his Independence Day speech on 15.08.2019, the Hon'ble Chief Minister also announced that the Vellore District Co-operative Milk Producers Union would be bifurcated to create a new Tiruvannamalai District Co-operative Milk Producers Union.

The office buildings for these six newly created District Co-operative milk producers Unions, an ultra modern Aavin parlour (Rs.62 lakh) at the Tourist Centre of Kodaikanal, Dindigul District, 2 veterinary hospital buildings (Rs.1.06 crore) with facilities for surgery, testing and treatment at Kurinjipadi and Bhuvanagiri in Cuddalore District (Animal Husbandry Department), fish landing decks at Kurumpanai Village, Killiyur Taluk (Rs.11 crore), another at Pallamthurai Village, Agastheeswaran Taluk, (Rs.4 crore) – both in Kanniyakumari District, at Chinnangudi Village,Tharangampadi Taluk (Rs.5.50 crore) in Nagapattinam District, a fish auctioning and net knitting hall (Rs.1.62 crore) at Ariyanattutheru Village, Nagapattinam Taluk, Nagapattinam District; a retaining wall and a fish landing deck (Rs.4.95 crore) at Soolerikattukuppam Village, Thiruporur Taluk, Kancheepuram District; a fish landing deck (Rs.4.38 crore) at Periamangodu Village, Ponneri Taluk, Tiruvallur District, renovated fish seed tank (Rs. One crore) at the old fish farm, Bhavanisagar, Sathyamangalam Taluk, Erode District, a new library block building (Rs.5.35 crore) at Tamil Nadu Dr.J Jayalalithaa Fisheries University, Nagapattinam with NABARD bank assistance – all costing Rs.40.16 crore – were declared open.

All kinds of treatment are provided in the veterinary clinics spread all over Tamil Nadu. Domestic animals die on occasions when life-saving treatment has to be given or when they are unable to walk or unable to be transported, inflicting economic loss on the owners. To avert this eventuality, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma introduced the veterinary ambulance service in the year 2016. This was implemented as a pilot project in the 5 Districts of Kancheepuram, Madurai, Namakkal, Tiruchirapalli and Thanjavur

through the Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University with each District getting 2 ambulance vehicles.

As farmers welcomed this service greatly, 22 air conditioned ambulance vehicles – 'Amma ambulance' – costing Rs.2.39 crore were acquired. By way of inaugurating the Amma ambulance service, Hon'ble Chief Minister presented, as a token, keys of these vehicles to 7 drivers.

This Amma ambulance contains all the essential equipment, ancillary tools and medicines to provide emergency treatment in the vehicle itself after diagnosing the disease; an adjustable table to test small livestock species, trolley and hydraulic lift facility to bring animals from inaccessible places to the ambulance and lift the animals that are unable to walk into the vehicle. The hydraulic lift can lift a weight of one tonne.

For uninterrupted power supply, an inverter has been provided; a big lamp operable by generator to shed light of good intensity has been fixed outside the vehicle for treating animals at night in places where there is no power supply. A TV has been installed inside the vehicle to educate farmers about the Animal Husbandry Department's works and schemes. Also, glow sign boards, explaining the Department's works, have been fixed outside the body of the vehicle in either side. In each District, there will be an Amma ambulance. Its services can be obtained through the toll free '1962' telephone service. ■

Hon'ble Chief Minister lights up Deepavali with joyful greetings

Greetings of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami
on the occasion of Deepavali - 26.10.2019 *(English Translation)*.

I extend my heartiest and joyful greetings to the people of Tamil Nadu who are celebrating Deepavali, the festival of lights, enthusiastically.

On this auspicious day, Lord *Thirumal*, with the assistance of *Annai Mahalakshmi*, annihilated the demon *Narakasuran*, who was giving trouble to human beings. Deepavali Day signifies the extinction of evil and the triumph of good, the victory of light over darkness.

On the day of Deepavali, people celebrate the festival by getting up early in the morning, taking oil bath, wearing new clothes and praying to God by lighting lights. They fire crackers and share sweets with friends and relatives.

I pray to God, that this Sweet Festival Deepavali should bring peace, prosperity and plenty as well as well-being to people. I once again extend my heartiest Deepavali greetings to the people of Tamil Nadu. ■

Hon'ble Chief Minister exhorts students on integral education

'Along with academics, learn life's lessons to become a full-fledged person'

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami at the 28th convocation of the Dr. M.G.R. Educational and Research Institute (Deemed University) on 20.10.2019 (*English Translation*)

My obeisance to Idaya Deivam Ponmana Chemmal Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. and Goddess Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

Hon'ble and Respected Thiru.A.C. Shanmugam was born in a family of humble means and has risen to be an excellent educationist by setting up many educational institutions through his hard work and tireless efforts. I am extremely happy to participate in the 28th convocation of the deemed to be university Dr.M.G.R. Educational and Research Institute, founded by him.

Respected Thiru.A.C. Shanmugam, founder-chancellor of Dr.M.G.R. Educational and Research Institute who is presiding over this excellent function, Respected Thiru.A.C.S. Arunkumar, founder-chairman of Dr.M.G.R. Educational and Research Institute, participants Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru. O. Panneerselvam, Hon'ble

Minister for School Education Thiru.K.A. Sengottaiyan, Hon'ble Minister for Local Administration Thiru.S.P.Velumani, Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education Thiru.K.P.Anbalagan, Hon'ble Minister for Rural Industries Thiru.P.Benjamin, Hon'ble Minister for Tamil Development Thiru.K.Pandiarajan, former Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha Thiru. M.Thambidurai, Government Whip Respected Thiru. Rajendran, Members of Parliament and Legislature, former Ministers, former members of Parliament and Legislature, DRDO Secretary G. Satish Reddy who has been conferred the honorary doctorate degree, Chairman and Director of Ganga Hospital Dr.S.Raja Sabapathy, Music Director Respected Thiru. Harris Jayaraj, *Bharathanatyam* artist Respected Selvi Shobana Chandrakumar, Professors and Lecturers of the University, today's Degree Holders and Tomorrow's Achievers, Students, Newspaper and Media friends, Parents, Elders, Ladies – at the outset I convey my grateful respects to all of you.

Drawn by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R., Thiru. A.C.S. joined politics under his aegis, after completing his college education. Winning Dr. Puratchi Thalaivar's affection, respected Thiru.A.C.S. was elected as a member of the Legislative Assembly in 1980 and of Parliament in 1984 and implemented many schemes for the development of society in general and his constituency in particular. As his first venture, Thiru.A.C.S. started a polytechnic college in Chennai in 1983, realizing that education is the basis for the country's growth and society's development. This was followed by educational institutions in the cities of Chennai, Arani and Bengaluru. Co-ordinating all these institutions, he founded this deemed to be University and named it 'Dr.M.G.R. Educational and Research Institute' to show his gratitude to his benefactor Ponmana Chemmal Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R.

This institute has the laudable aim that its students should not be job seekers but job givers.

As students, you started your collegiate education with the noble thoughts of determination, educational excellence and service-mindedness. These thoughts would have matured during your college days and to put them into practice, you are receiving your degrees today and going out of the college campus as responsible youth. I congratulate you all. I also extend my good wishes to all those who receive, along with me, the doctorate degree (honoris causa).

Participation in a convocation is a special honour. This is the time you have to take up the great responsibilities awaiting you. This is also the time you have to take the pledge of carrying out your responsibilities for the growth of human society. My responsibilities also have increased on account of receiving the doctorate degree today.

"Truth, Labour and Excellence" are to be praised; "Compassion, Humility and Courage" are to be followed; "Duty, Dignity and Discipline" are to be practiced – said Perarignar Anna. My humble request is that

you, who are to take up work in society should adhere without fail to this advice of Perarignar Anna.

Deiva Pulavar Valluvar Perunthagai said the best imperishable wealth is education; other kinds of wealth are not so great ("*Kedil vizhuselvam kalvi oruvarkku maadalla matrai avai*").

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma said: "Encouraging human resource development through quality educational institutions, creating excellent educationists in greater number and making Tamil Nadu, a global centre in University Education, are My Government's Aims".

Hon'ble Amma's Government has well realized that education should not be limited to rote education but should also kindle the thinking faculty of a person. Hence it has brought out new syllabi for classes up to 12th standard. In the current year, it has allotted a maximum of Rs.28,957.62 crore for the Department of School Education.

Hon'ble Amma, who stated that her aim was to extend collegiate education to more than 50 per cent of the student population, started 65 colleges. Our Government that toes Hon'ble Amma's line has also started 12 Government Arts and Science Colleges and 5 Polytechnic Colleges. Recently, it opened a Government Arts and Science College at Rameswaram in the name of the late former President of India, Respected Thiru.Abdul Kalam. I am proud to mention here, that in the last 3 years, the Government has started 6 law colleges in the six Districts of Villupuram, Dharmapuri, Ramanathapuram, Salem, Namakkal and Theni. I am also proud to state that the 2019-2020 Budget has allotted Rs.4,584.21 crore for Higher Education.

Hon'ble Amma's mind conceived the scheme for distribution of laptops at no cost because of the concern that our students should not lag behind in the use of modern technology. Under this scheme, 48,17,195 laptops, valued at Rs.6,813 crore, have so far been distributed to students from the year 2011-2012.

- The Tamil Nadu Government has started an exclusive Education TV and is operating it successfully.
- The scheme to provide technological training for 15 days in overseas countries to 100 students studying in Government Engineering Colleges is being keenly implemented.
- 1,350 additional medical seats have been given to Tamil Nadu.
- 1,213 medical post graduate seats have been added.

Also, we have requested the Central Government to sanction 6 new medical colleges to be located in 6 District Headquarters. I am happy to state that the Union Government is currently examining this request. Besides opening arts and science colleges to enable students from poor families to pursue higher education, Hon'ble Amma's Government has started more law, engineering and medical colleges and is recording countless achievements in the field of education.

On account of these steps, enrolment in higher education has increased to 49 per cent, pushing Tamil Nadu into the premier slot in the whole of India.

In the world of knowledge, universities are the temples. Universities are considered to be the important instruments of social change and development as they create skilled workers, employees and young scientists and conduct research to solve economic needs. As the Tamil Nadu Government now fulfills important human resources needs through skill development training programmes, Tamil Nadu has become the premier State in the whole of the country in this regard.

Former President of India Respected Dr. Radhakrishnan said: "Education should not be mere rote education. It should promote the thinking capacity, understanding and develop patience".

A society's growth does not stop with economic development. While it is important to earn money to take care of one's need for food, education, health, housing and clothing, it is equally important to acquire wisdom through literature, philosophy and moral stories for inner development and learning about life. Only that person who learns both is a full-fledged person.

Let me narrate a story here. A needle was proud of its sharp edge. However, it was ashamed of its other end that had a hole. One day, the ear of the needle broke. Seeing the broken needle, the person who till then was using it, threw it away. Only then did the needle realize the importance of its other end which it had been considering a matter of shame.

The education you, the students, learnt is like the sharp edge of the needle. General knowledge, life education and knowledge obtained through reading books of wisdom are like the ear of the needle. The utility of the needle rests on its ear that permits the thread to enter. Similarly, however much, you, the

students have learnt through your subject books, it is necessary that you should learn, along with academic education, life education also to make your education full-fledged. I affectionately request parents also to impress on their children the need to learn about life in all its aspects.

One of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar's songs goes like this: "The woman who bore you for ten months should be proud of you; she should be honoured by others for begetting you. In the Hall of the Learned, you should have a noteworthy seat". (*Paththu thingal sumandhale, aval perumai pada vendum; unnai petradhanal, aval matravaraale potrappada vendum, Katravar sabaiyil unakkaga thani idamum thara vendum*"). As per the lines of the song, I affectionately urge each one of you to become persons adored by the entire country.

In his speech, respected Thiru.A.C. Shanmugam narrated the greatness of this college. In his medical college hospital at Bengaluru, free surgery was conducted on one lakh persons. The credit of saving one lakh lives should go to respected Thiru. Shanmugam. Wealth is not enough; there should be a compassionate heart. Respected Shanmugam is one such person with a compassionate heart. I am duty-bound to praise him. This apart, I was engaged in election campaign along with him in the recent Parliament election in which he was contesting from the Vellore constituency.

In the campaign, he said that he would educate free of cost in his college, 100 persons from each of the 6 Assembly constituencies, comprising his parliamentary constituency, and that he would bear the entire cost. We should ponder, how great it is to educate 600 persons at no cost. I am bound to appreciate him. He also promised to admit in his Bengaluru hospital, any one falling sick in the Vellore parliamentary constituency, and to bear the entire cost of treatment. More important than being in politics is the help one renders in one's lifetime. Thiru. Shanmugam has such a helping tendency. He deserves praise.

We should reflect how much effort would have been needed for Thiru. Shanmugam, who was born in a humble family, to rise to this level. It is said that 'Effort yields fruit' (*Muyarchi Thiruvinaiyakkum*). Anything can be achieved through striving. Respected Thiru. Shanmugam is an exemplar in this regard. Through his effort, he has created an environment for 35,000 students to learn. He has created job opportunities for nearly 7,000 persons. I wish to state that you too can rise like him if you are endowed with effort and hard work. I congratulate this University over its research scholars coming up with equipment that can be used by the army. Your research should continue; you should contribute to the country's progress; you should achieve greater and greater success. Extending my good wishes for the growth of this country and for the well-being of your families, I take leave while greeting all those who have received their degrees.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

Web portal launched to collect donations for more facilities in Government schools

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami inaugurated at the Secretariat on 05.11.2019, a web portal (https://contribute.tnschools.gov.in) to mobilize funds from the public for developing infrastructure and other facilities in Government schools under the control of the Department of School Education.

As per the Indian Companies Act, 2019, corporate companies and commercial establishments should spend two per cent of their net profit towards discharging their corporate social responsibilities. Most of the establishments extend funds to schools identified either by Non-Government Service Organizations or by themselves.

To help such organizations and activists, no simple and reliable website or alternative ways have so far been created. Likewise, former students of Government schools who are well off now are eager to contribute for the development of their alma mater. For them also, no reliable and simple digital portal has been created. Their help to Government schools has also not been brought to light due to the absence of such portals. Likewise, details on individuals and establishments consistently helping Government schools could not be obtained.

To remove these deficiencies and develop Government schools through the participation of corporate companies under their social responsibility obligations and that of volunteers, the Department of School Education of Tamil Nadu Government has created this digital agency to mobilize funds. Its reliability

will induce companies and volunteers to come forward in greater numbers and donate with enthusiasm. Transparency in dealings will promote public participation in Government school development in a greater measure. This will create opportunities to tap the Corporate Social Responsibility Fund also. As the donations enjoy tax exemption, individuals and establishments will come forward to contribute more through this portal. Also, information on former students of Government schools can be compiled.

Funds mobilized through the digital portal will not only be deposited in a separate bank account but the public can also access details regarding this fund through the Internet. The Tamil Nadu Parent-Teacher Association will function as the link for this fund. The Treasurer and the Secretary of this Association will act as the Public Relations Officers and manage this fund.

Moreover, Tamil Nadu has uploaded 10,199 learning resources through 9,064 QR-Code in 313 text books in the DIKSHA website that helps virtual learning. So far, 4.92 crore persons have scanned this site and 2.39 crore persons have downloaded. By way of appreciating Tamil Nadu as one of the four best States in using DIKSHA App, the Central Government Department of Human Resources Development presented the national award to the State as the Best Model State, at Delhi on September 4th. Thiru. R.Sudalaikannan I.A.S., Director, Integrated School Education Scheme showed the award to the Hon'ble Chief Minister and received his good wishes.

Applications invited for Anna Gallantry awards before 16.12.2019

Anna Medal for acts of gallantry are given every year by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu as part of the Republic Day function. The Award consists of a cash prize of Rs.1 lakh, a medal and a citation. Persons belonging to Tamil Nadu, who have done heroic acts of bravery are eligible for this Award. The Award is given to 3 members of the public and 3 Government servants and there is no age limit for the Award.

Applications are invited for the Anna Medal for acts of gallantry to be given in 2020. Applicants are requested to send their applications along with supporting documents through their respective District Collectors to the Principal Secretary, Public Department, Secretariat, Chennai-600 009, before 16.12.2019. Applications received after the due date will be summarily rejected. The winners, selected by a committee nominated by the Government, will be honoured with the Award by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, at the Republic Day function to be held on 26.01.2020.

High cash incentives to tennikoit medallists

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru.Edappadi K. Palaniswami presented cheques at the Secretariat on 05.11.2019 for Rs.10 lakh each to 5 bronze medallists – 3 men and 2 women - at the 4th World Cup Tennikoit Championship Tournament, a cheque for Rs.3 lakh to Master D. Gukesh for winning the International Master title at the Chess competition 2018 and a cheque for Rs.10 lakh to the Executives of the Hockey Unit of Tamil Nadu that conducted National-level Tennikoit Competitions in Chennai from 07.01.2019 to 20.01.2019.

The Tamil Nadu Government that treads the path of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma is taking several steps to enable sports personnel in the State to participate and win in National and International sports events, like giving training to them, providing high-end incentives, financial assistance to participants in International competitions, setting up sports hostels for students to stay and get trained in games, conducting village sports competitions to encourage rural sports personnel, developing District playgrounds and encouraging traditional games.

The Tamil Nadu sports persons representing India at the 4th World Cup Tennikoit Championship Tournament in team events, who won bronze medal were Thiruvalargal E. Arivazhagan, G.Thirugnanam and S. Abishek (Men's division) and Selvi A.Ramya and Selvi K.Keerthana (Women's division). The Hon'ble Chief Minister presented them cheques for Rs.10 lakh each (total Rs.50 lakh).

Measure will bring down demand for potable water, protect environment

Hon’ble Chief Minister opens plant to recycle sewage water for industries, power stations

Speech of the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** after declaring open on 01.10.2019, the Kodungaiyur tertiary sewage treatment plant, costing Rs.348 crore which has a capacity to produce 45 million litres of treated water per day (*English Translation*).

My obeisance to Goddess Hon’ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

I announced in the Assembly under Rule 110, the proposed launching of the ‘Water Resources Conservation and Augmentation Mission’ for conserving every drop of rain water and even the used water through recycling for the benefit of people. The Mission will co-ordinate all the steps taken for proper conservation of water for proper use with the existing ‘*kudimaramathu*’ scheme. In accordance with

that announcement, I am extremely happy to participate in today's function to declare open the Rs.348 crore tertiary sewage treatment station, having a capacity of producing 45 million litres of water per day.

Hon'ble respected Deputy Chief Minister Thiru. O.Panneerselvam who has given many good ideas in this function, Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration, Rural Development and Special Programme Implementation Thiru. S.P.Velumani who has shared many excellent ideas, Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries, Personnel and Administrative Reforms, Thiru.D.Jayakumar, Hon'ble Ministers, Hon'ble Members of Parliament and Legislative Assembly, Hon'ble former ministers, Hon'ble former members of Parliament and Assembly, Chief Secretary to Government Thiru.K.Shanmugam who has delivered a special address, Principal Secretary of the Department of Municipal Administration and Water Supply Thiru.Harmander Singh who has welcomed the gathering, Managing Director of Greater Chennai Water Supply and Sewage Board who is to propose a vote of thanks, government officials, newspaper and media friends, elders, ladies - at the outset I offer my respects to all of you.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma said: "I have always been more concerned with whether we are with the people rather than whether the people are with us. I am always thinking about the ways in which I can do good to the people who have faith in me. That is why, you, my beloved people are always with me". Hon'ble Amma's Government that treads the path of Hon'ble Amma, is also continuously implementing beneficial schemes for the people. That is why people's great support continues to remain with Hon'ble Amma's Government.

Rivers in Tamil Nadu mostly depend on monsoon rains. The practice of filling lakes, tanks, ponds and *Ooranis* with river water and using the water later for drinking purposes, irrigation and other needs goes centuries back.

For economic development, water management is essential. Water scarcity arises in periods of monsoon failure. It is important to find a permanent solution for it. It is essential to save every drop of rain water and conserve recycled used water for proper use.

A '*Pura Naanooru*' song states that it is the prime duty of a king to set up conducive water bodies to conserve rain water ("*Nilan nelimarungin neernilai peruga*"). That is, it counts those kings who had raised bunds around natural land depressions to make them water bodies, as the best rulers.

Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, who understood the importance of water management in tune with this '*Pura Naanooru*' song, transformed rain water harvesting into a people's movement and succeeded in her efforts. I wish to proudly mention here that I inaugurated on 07.08.2019, an intensive people's movement - 'Water Resources Conservation and Augmentation Mission' for taking forward rain water harvesting on the lines of Hon'ble Amma, increasing and safeguarding the capacity of water bodies, ensuring efficient use of water for agriculture and encouraging in a major way, the use of treated sewage and used water through recycling. This intensive mission employs several methods like saving rain water, safeguarding and improving the capacity of water bodies through '*kudimaramathu*' scheme, stabilizing drinking water supply through replenishing ground water table, reducing the pressure on potable water needs through recycling of used water and thereby promoting the vigorous application of the concept of re-use and recycling of water. Through this intensive people's movement, 1,829 works costing Rs.500 crore, for which administrative sanction was given under the '*kudimaramathu*' scheme for the current year and approved canal repair works, costing Rs.61.38 crore, in the Cauvery delta area as an advanced measure to conserve the south west and north east monsoon rain water, are being implemented.

Through this, not only has Cauvery water reached the tail end areas of the Districts of Nagapattinam and Thiruvarur, a part of Cauvery delta, but also all the lakes in the Cauvery delta Districts that receive supplies through irrigation canals, have been filling up fast after many years. This is a historic achievement of Hon'ble Amma's Government. Also, capacity building works in minor irrigation lakes, ponds and ooranis village-wise, costing Rs.1,250 crore are being undertaken by the Department of Rural Development and Panchayat under this intensive movement. Of the 210 water bodies in Chennai Metro, rectification works have been taken up in 53 with funds from Chennai Municipal Corporation and that set apart by private sector companies under their social responsibility protocol. Moreover, repair works in 114 water bodies are being implemented through this Movement at a cost of Rs.100 crore.

There is good response to this Movement throughout Tamil Nadu. Private companies, the general public, NGOs, voluntary organizations and social activists have taken part in this Movement on a large scale and they are dredging water resources. Hence, I am very happy to state through this event, that water bodies have been developed well ahead of the monsoon through this Movement and more rain water has been stored.

My aim, this Movement's aim and the important aim of Hon'ble Amma's Government is that each of us should think about water conservation and act so that we leave behind a rich water resource for the next generation, after taking into account the growing population and its water needs.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar set up in 1978 the Chennai City Water Supply and Sewage Board for continuing the water supply to the city. This Board is doing a good job of supplying protected water to meet the present and future needs of greater Chennai and in sewage disposal.

As per the water harvesting scheme, executed through the earnest efforts of Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Amma, rain water harvesting installations were set up in all buildings in the year 2003. At present, as per the orders of Hon'ble Amma's Government, the Chennai Water Supply Board and the Greater Chennai Municipal Corporation are jointly inspecting whether the rain harvesting installations are operational through proper maintenance and are advising consumers on rectification of deficiencies in them and if need be, on developing and extending them. This has

contributed to the rise of ground water table in Chennai city by 2 to 5 feet after the recent rains.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma announced in 2004 the scheme to set up a desalination plant for producing 100 million litres of potable water per day for providing uninterrupted water supply to Chennai city people even if both the monsoons fail. Accordingly a desalination plant was set up in Minjur. A second plant with a capacity of producing 100 mld water was set up at Nemmeli. These two desalination plants play an important role in Chennai city water supply. They help to manage the drinking water needs of Chennai city when the monsoon is deficient.

Hon'ble Amma had announced that another desalination station would be set up near Nemmeli plant. As per that announcement, I am happy to state that the foundation for setting up the desalination station at a cost of Rs.1,259.38 crore and with a capacity of purifying 150 million litres of sea water into potable water, was laid by me on 27.06.2019.

Administrative sanction has been given and a government order has been issued for setting up a per day 400 million litre capacity sea water conversion station at an estimate of Rs.6,078.40 crore at Perur on the East Coast Road, as identified and announced by Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma as the permanent solution to Chennai city's drinking water needs. I am happy to state that the scheme will be inaugurated shortly.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government has taken up the work of setting up a reservoir with a capacity of storing 1,000 million cubic ft. of water per year at Kannankottai-Thervoy Kandigai for averting wasteful draining of monsoon rain water in the sea and to meet the drinking water needs of the people of Chennai City. These works will be completed soon.

Supply of 36 million litres of water to industries through sewage water recycling, was implemented by Hon'ble Amma even in the year 1993 and it is being continued. As a follow up to this, I have declared open today a sewage treatment station at Kodungaiyur (Rs.348 crore) with a per day capacity to purify 45 million litres of water through the reverse osmosis process to supply tertiary treated water to industrial establishments and power generating stations in North Chennai. This scheme has been extended further and works are on at present to set up one more tertiary sewage treatment plant with a capacity of 45 million litres in Koyambedu area. This will be completed soon. Through this, treated sewage water is to be supplied to industries in North Chennai and Sriperumbudur in place of 40 million litres of potable water. When these two plants come into operation, 20 per cent of the total sewage generated in Chennai city, will come under recycling. This will make Tamil Nadu, I am proud to say, a state that recycles and uses treated water in the largest scale in the whole of India.

During my recent official tour of the United States, I had first-hand knowledge of recycled sewage being put to use in toilets and in watering gardens and trees, in re-charging ground water by storing it in lakes and using that ground water even for drinking purposes.

In a like manner, if the waste water is treated and recycled, the demand for potable water in Chennai and other Municipal Corporations will come down and environmental pollution will also be averted.

Employing the same technology, Hon'ble Amma's Government is setting up secondary sewage treatment plants at Nesapakkam and Perungudi with a capacity of 10 million litres per day each.

Also, Hon'ble Amma's Government is now taking steps to treat and recycle the used water in big establishments. I wish to point out here that a new rule will be introduced shortly, making installation of treatment plants mandatory for recycling and re-use of water for grant of permission for construction of new factories and apartment buildings. Hon'ble Amma's Government will continue to encourage implementation of such plans for treating sewage and re-using it for safeguarding potable water.

With the blessings of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma and through my efforts, the Kandaleru dam was opened on 25.09.2019 for meeting the drinking water needs of Chennai city. This water has now reached the Poondi reservoir. Hence, I am happy to state that the quantum of drinking water supplied to people in Chennai city will be increased.

To fulfill the drinking water needs of Chennai city, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. brought Krishna river water. Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi brought water from Veeranam lake to quench Chennai people's thirst. Also, it was Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma who brought the magnificent rain water harvesting scheme and made it a people's movement.

I wish to inform that it is Hon'ble Amma's Government that is at present implementing pioneering schemes like '*kudimaramathu*', Water Resources Conservation and Augmentation Mission, desalination scheme works at Perur and Nemmeli, Kannankottai-Thervoy Kandigai reservoir and Sewage Treatment plants at Kodungaiyur and Koyambedu.

It is the AIADMK Government that has designed many schemes with a visionary outlook, like the desalination scheme for uninterrupted supply of drinking water to the people of Chennai city. I am duty-bound to assert that it is the AIADMK Government that is supplying drinking water to people of Chennai city even today though Nature let us down.

There is wastage of water from the Krishna river at many places. So, the Government proposes to implement a new scheme to convey all the water from Kandaleru dam to the Poondi reservoir. If the water is conveyed through pipes, the water released from Kandleru will reach Poondi reservoir in full measure. This scheme is under Government's examination.

It is the AIADMK Government that transformed Tamil Nadu into a Power Surplus State. I wish to firmly state that it is again the AIADMK Government that is transforming Tamil Nadu into a water surplus state.

My greetings to all the good-hearted persons who arranged this event in a good manner.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

Tamil Nadu Government receives award for senior citizens welfare

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami congratulated the Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare and Nutritious Meals Scheme Dr. V.Saroja at the Secretariat on 05.11.2019 when the latter showed him the National Award presented to Tamil Nadu by the Hon'ble President of India for excellent implementation of welfare schemes for senior citizens. The award was presented at a function held at New Delhi on 04.10.2019.

The function was organized by the Central Ministry for Social Justice and Empowerment. The award was given to Tamil Nadu for its excellent implementation of different welfare schemes for senior citizens as per the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act of 2007, for the year 2018-2019 by fulfilling the basic facilities for leading a safe and respectable life, providing old-age pension, setting up old-age homes, integrated complexes, mobile medical centres, physiotherapy treatment and the like. ■

‘Sikhism has given great values to mankind’

Speech of the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** at the 550th Jayanthi of Guru Nanak Dev at Chennai on 12.11.2019 *(English Translation)*.

At the outset, I extend my warm welcome to all those who have assembled here for this august function.

I feel honoured and happy to participate in the 550th Jayanthi celebration of Guru Nanak Dev, the founder of the Sikh Religion and the foremost of the 10 Sikh Gurus.

Every year on November 12th, the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev is being celebrated with joy and reverence, as Guru Nanak Jayanthi or Guru Nanak Dev Prakash Diwas. I sincerely convey my heartfelt thanks and gratitude to my Sikh brothers and sisters for giving me an opportunity to participate in this function.

All over the world there are 270 lakh Sikhs which is 0.39 per cent of the world population and in India the Sikh population is 190 lakh, which is 2 per cent of the country’s population.

The Sikhs are a trustworthy, loyal, patriotic and hardworking people. I would like to mention here that the role of Sikhs in the freedom struggle is significant.

The Sikh religion has given mankind great values transcending nationality, language and race. Sikhism teaches people to bring a spiritual outlook to everyday life. A human being should realize the existence of God and aim to reach God. Sikhism insists that one should not discriminate among people on the basis of economic status and that all should be treated equally. To put this into practice, in all Gurudwaras, in the community kitchen called Langar, food is served for all without any distinction.

Guru Nanakji attained wisdom in 1499 when he was 30 years old. Through his teachings he brought people to the right path and eliminated superstitious beliefs. He taught that women were like the eyes of society and must be respected.

Based on equality, brotherhood, virtuous qualities and character, Guru Nanak Dev created a platform for political, social and spiritual beliefs, so that people could live with integrity.

Let us follow the great principles of Guru Nanak Dev. I once again thank you for giving me this opportunity to participate in this Jayanthi function.

Stone laid for building Railway over-bridge at Perungalathur

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami laid the foundation stone through video conferencing at the Secretariat on 01.11.2019, for a railway over-bridge at Perungalathur in Kancheepuram District, between Tambaram and Vandalur railway stations, to be constructed at a cost of Rs.206.83 crore by the Highways and Small Ports Department.

Realizing the importance of road infrastructure for socio- economic development, the Tamil Nadu Government, following the path laid down by the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, has been increasing the capacity of roads, constructing new bridges, laying quality roads and maintaining the roads and bridges in a proper manner to ensure safe travel.

Towards this end, the foundation stone was laid for the new over-bridge at Perungalathur by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami.

Hon'ble Chief Minister chairs meeting to ensure full preparedness in facing North East monsoon

A review meeting was conducted by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami**, regarding advance measures and immediate measures to be taken in view of the Weather Office report that there would be heavy rains in the State due to North East Monsoon - 22.10.2019 (*English Translation*)

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami conducted a review meeting at the Secretariat on 22.10.2019 to discuss the advance measures to be taken by the Government, following the Indian Meteorological Department's forecast that there was possibility of heavy rains in the State for the next four days.

A similar review meeting was conducted, under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, with higher officials on 23.09.2019 to discuss the preparedness of the State in view of the forthcoming North East Monsoon. At the meeting, necessary orders were issued to all supervisory staff, who are in the ranks of IAS, to undertake preparatory works in their respective Districts. Following this, the Chief Secretary conducted review meetings on 24.09.2019 and 04.10.2019 in which staff belonging to all Departments and Supervisory Staff participated.

In the meeting, 4,399 areas which are likely to be affected immediately by the North East Monsoon, were identified. In this connection, 639 regional committees, consisting of various Departments, have been formed. In addition,

21,597 'first responder' rescuers, including 9,162 women and 8,872 'first responder' rescuers for animals and another 9,099 'first responder' rescuers for planting tree saplings during non-disaster period and removing uprooted trees due to disaster have been kept ready.

To avert and mitigate the impact of any disaster, 17,866 check dams and 14,946 percolation ponds have been formed. Also, 9,250 water recharging wells have been set up. Unused bore-wells, 11,080 in number, and 3,434 open wells have been converted into water recharging wells. River beds to a length of 3,174 kms have been desilted. Encroachments numbering 3,662, on river beds have been cleared. Blocks in 6,749 bridges and 1,40,228 small bridges have been removed. About 7.44 lakh cubic metres of earth have been desilted, which resulted in saving of about 2.62 tmc. ft. of water. About 6.60 lakh farmers have been benefitted by desilting alluvial soil. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has directed completion of the unfinished works at the earliest.

To give shelter to people living in low-lying areas and in flood-prone areas, 121 multi-purpose protection centres, 4,768 schools, 105 colleges, 2,394 marriage halls and community centres have been kept ready. In addition, 3,915 saw machines, 2,897 JCBs, 2,115 generators and 483 giant pumps, besides search and rescue machines have been kept ready. One lakh electric posts have been kept ready by the Power Generation and Distribution Board.

Mobile first grade rescue committees have been set up in every area/circle/regional areas and they have been given training at the District level. Apart from the 1,000 strong Tamil Nadu Disaster Rescue forces, 4,155 personnel (excluding Chennai), trained by the National Disaster Rescue Forces and State level Disaster Rescue Forces, have been deployed along the coastal Districts,1,844 personnel in other Districts, 607 personnel in Chennai District (totally 6,606 personnel) have been kept in a State of readiness in all the Districts in the State.

4,537 Fire Service Personnel, belonging to the Tamil Nadu Fire and Rescue Service Department and 1,400 voluntary workers have been given training. Another 2,000 people have been given rehearsal training.

Steps have been taken to give immediate information to the public about the disaster through App TNSMART, through social media and electronic and print media.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has issued instructions for taking the following steps during the Monsoon.

During the monsson, uprooted trees on the highways and village roads should be immediately removed by keeping both man and saw equipment ready for action. Electric motors should be kept ready to pump out stagnated rain water.

Rescue teams should be in a state of readiness to reach the affected spot with rescue materials at short notice.

There should be adequate stock of bleaching powder, medicines and other materials to prevent dysentery and other infectious diseases due to North East monsoon rains.

Both the private and Government Hospitals should be stored with adequate stock of medicines.

To avoid shortage of rations during any disaster periods, steps should be taken to keep two months stock of ration in all fair price shops.

In all Districts and Chennai Corporation, supervisory staff appointed by the Government should monitor the precautionary measures in their respective Districts / areas.

All the Department Secretaries and heads should work in co-ordination to prevent / avert any loss of life or property during the North East monsoon period.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister issued orders that National Disaster Rescue teams should be in a State of preparedness to rush to any affected place within the shortest possible time. The Hon'ble Chief Minister issued orders to send 50 personnel trained by the Tamil Nadu Disaster Management Force and additional personnel from the Fire Service and Rescue Department to The Nilgiris District, which is experiencing heavy rains.

At the meeting, schemes which have already been taken up under Disaster Management and their progress were discussed. The Government allotted Rs.40 crore for immediate demands, buying of additional accessories and special machinery.

Hon'ble Chief Minister greets Abhijit-Esther duo for winning Nobel Prize for Economics

I extend my earnest greetings to Thiru. Abhijit Banerjee and his wife Tmt. Esther Duflo for winning the Nobel Prize for 2019 for their experimental approach to alleviating global poverty.

The Indian-born, internationally renowned economist, Thiru. Abhijit Banerjee has been successfully working as economic researcher and professor. Both Thiru. Abhijit Banerjee and his wife Tmt. Esther Duflo are the directors of J-PAL research centre, with which the Tamil Nadu Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in November 2014, under which 15 research works have been undertaken in 7 departments. The Tamil Nadu Government is implementing various welfare schemes for the benefit of people of the State by getting the advice of both Thiru. Abhijit Banerjee and his wife Esther Duflo and other world renowned economists.

On behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu and on my personal behalf, I extend my sincere congratulations to Thiru. Abhijit Banerjee and his wife Tmt.Esther Duflo for winning the Nobel Prize for Economics for the Year 2019.

Hon'ble Chief Minister opens check dams

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru.Edappadi K.Palaniswami declared open at the Secretariat on 05.11.2019, the completed scheme works of renovated Mariamman Kovil Pallam Anaicut, check dams across South Pennaiyaru at the villages of Barur and Bandarahalli, Krishnagiri District, one across Naganadhi at Ammapalayam Village, Tiruvannamalai District and an additional office building, constructed at the PWD complex, Thovalai, Kanniyakumari District, all costing Rs.25.16 crore. They were all constructed by the Department of Water Resources, functioning under the Public Works Department.

The Tamil Nadu Government that functions on the lines of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, is implementing many irrigation development schemes through the Department of Water Resources for upgrading agriculture that acts as the seed for country's economic development, meeting the drinking water demands of the people, storing the available water in water bodies without wastage and creating new water resources.

Accordingly, the following works were executed and declared open: renovated Mariamman kovil Pallam anaicut at Palayampudur Village, Nallampalli Taluk, Dharmapuri District (Rs.2.95 crore); two check dams across South Pennaiyaru, Pochampalli Taluk, Krishnagiri District - one near Arasampatti, Barur Village (Rs.8.84 crore) under the groundwater rejuvenation scheme to supply drinking water on a permanent basis to 224 Villages through 6 combined drinking water wells and the other (Rs.9.25 crore) at Bandarahalli Village to rejuvenate the ground water through 34 irrigation wells in the Villages of Bandarahalli and Kasanur; across Naganadhi at Ammapalayam Village, Arani Taluk, Tiruvannamalai District (Rs.3.27 crore) to rejuvenate the ground water through 97 deep bore wells in Melnagar Panchayat; an additional office building (Rs.85 lakh) near Government Inspection Bungalow in the PWD complex, Thovalai, Kanniyakumari District.

Hon'ble Chief Minister honours best Handloom Weavers, Designers

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami, gave away the State-level Best Handloom Weavers Awards (Silk and Cotton categories), Best Designer Award and Skilled Weavers Award to 27 handloom weavers and cash prizes totalling Rs.6.15 lakh for the awards, at the Secretariat on 19.09.2019.

For promoting the handloom industry and motivating handloom weavers, the Tamil Nadu Government, following the path of the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, has been implementing various welfare schemes including distribution of dhotis and sarees at no cost, 4 sets of school uniforms in a year for students of Government and Government-aided schools, old-age pension and family pension schemes for co-operative handloom weavers, free electricity for handloom and powerloom weavers, educational assistance for weavers' children and awards for the best handloom weavers and skilled weavers with State-level awards and cash prizes.

To encourage handloom co-operative societies and encourage weavers who contribute for the higher production and sales of handloom products, the State Government introduced the State-level best handloom weavers award from the year 2014-2015. The Best Handloom Weaver Award consists of Rs.1 lakh cash prize and a commendation certificate.

The scheme has been expanded to the Best Designers and Skilled Weavers to encourage more handloom weavers. In this connection, in the Handloom Department's annual budget demand in 2018-2019, it was announced that the first prize of Rs.1 lakh, second prize of

Rs.75,000 and third prize of Rs.50,000 would be given to the best silk-weaving handloom weavers. For the best cotton-weaving weavers also, first prize of Rs.1 lakh, second prize of Rs.75,000 and the third prize of Rs.50,000 would be given. To encourage the best designers in Co-operative societies, the Department announced the first prize of Rs.25,000, second prize of Rs.10,000 and third prize of Rs.5,000.

For the year 2019-2020, in the silk weaving category, the first prize of Rs.1 lakh for the best handloom weaver was given to Thiru. K.Subramani of Kondalampatti Cotton and Silk Handloom Weavers Co-operative Society and in the cotton weaving category, the best weaver prize was won by Thiru. K.K. Pandurangan of Kalaimagal Cotton Handloom Weavers Co-operative Society in Paramakudi circle.

The second prize of Rs.75,000 was won by Thiru. R.Babu (Silk Varieties) and Tmt.S.Mallika (Cotton varieties) and third prize of Rs.50,000 each was won by Thiru. S.K.Saravanan (Silk) and Tmt. R.Radhamani (Cotton). The Best Designer Award of Rs.25,000 was won by Thiru. M. Karthikeyan of Tirubuvanam Silk Co-operative Society, Kumbakonam Circle. The first prize of Rs.10,000 each and commendation certificates for best design and skilled weaving was given to 20 skilled handloom weavers.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister handed over the Best Handloom Weaver Awards, Designer Awards and Skilled Weavers Awards to 27 handloom weavers, who were given cash prize in the form of cheques to the value of Rs.6.75 lakh as prize money and commendation certificates and honoured the winners.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also declared open a new office building, built at a cost of Rs.1 crore for the Assistant Director of Handloom and Textiles Department for Tiruchengode Circle in Namakkal District. He also handed over appointment orders for the posts of Drivers and Junior Clerks to 5 heirs of permanent employees and workers of Anna Co-operative Spinning Mills, Bharathi Co-operative Spinning Mills, Kanniyakumari Co-operative Spinning Mills and Ramanathapuram Co-operative Spinning Mills, who died in harness, on compassionate grounds.

Hon’ble Chief Minister inaugurates schemes worth Rs. 550.50 crore

Amma’s Government is ‘creating records in implementing schemes for the people’

Speech of the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** at a function organized by the Municipal Administration & Water Supply Department and Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, at Kalaivanar Arangam in Chennai, on 31.10.2019 (*English Translation*)

I bow to Hon’ble Idhaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

Hon’ble Deputy Chief Minister, Thiru. O.Panneerselvam, who gave excellent ideas in this function,

Hon’ble Minister for Municipal Administration, Rural Development and Special Programme Implementation, Thiru. S.P.Velumani,

Hon’ble Minister for Fisheries, Personnel and Administrative Reforms, Thiru. D.Jayakumar,

Hon’ble Ministers, Hon’ble MPs, MLAs, Hon’ble former Ministers, former MPs and former MLAs, Hon’ble Board Chairmen, office-bearers of the co-operative societies, Hon’ble Chief Secretary, Hon’ble Deputy Chief Secretary for Rural Development and Panchayats,

Principal Secretary of Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department, who is to propose a vote of thanks,

Government employees, those in charge of Self Help Groups, Members of the Print and Visual Media,

At the outset I extend my warm welcome to you all.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma said that Tamil Nadu is the fastest developing State and the present Government continues to take the State in the path of fast development.

At present there are 15 Corporations, 121 Municipalities and 528 Town Panchayats. Nearly 31 per cent of the people of the State live in towns. Tamil Nadu Stands first in the country with 48.45 per cent of the population living in urban areas.

Mahatma Gandhi said that villages are the backbone of the country. In the 31 Rural Districts in the State, there are 12,524 Panchayats, comprising 79,394 hamlets.

The Tamil Nadu Government has been implementing various Rural Development Schemes such as infrastructure development, providing necessary amenities to people, creating livelihood opportunities for individual families living below the poverty line and for self-help groups, creating sustained livelihood opportunities and infrastructure facilities in rural areas similar to urban areas.

Perarignar Anna said, "We see God in the smile of the poor''. The Tamil Nadu Government is to implement an innovative rural development project by name 'Tamil Nadu Rural Transformation Project' that aims at rural transformation through strategies that look beyond poverty alleviation by building sustainability and prosperity of rural communities through rural enterprise promotion, access to finance and employment opportunities. The project will be implemented with financial assistance of Rs.918.20 crore from the World Bank.

Adi Dravidars, Tribal people, youth, women, enterprising entrepreneurs and manufacturers of farm and non-farm products will be the beneficiaries of this project. I am happy to inform that Rs.172 crore has been allotted for the current financial year for this project.

For implementing the project, I am happy to inform that appointment orders have been issued to 525 persons on contract basis for the posts of District Executive Officers, Young

Professionals, Executive Assistants, Block Team Leaders and Project Executives.

Amma's Government has created history by issuing 17,600 appointment orders in one year through the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission, the highest number of orders issued in a year since its formation in 1930. It is again the present Amma Government that has been creating thousands of job opportunities for youth in various Departments.

One of the songs of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma runs thus:

"Marathil Padarum Kodiye, Unnai
Valarthavaraa Ingu Padaravittar
Mannil Nadakkum Nadhiye, Unnai
Padaithavaraa Indha Paadhai Sonnaar
Ungal Vazhiye, Ungal Ulagu, Indha
Vazhidhaan Endhan Kanavu…"

(O creeper that grows in the wild by clinging to trees, did any human hand set your course? O river that flows on the land, did any one tell you the path that you must tread? You make your own moves and live your own life… Even so do my dreams take me ahead!)

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma sang these lyrics in a film song. In keeping with the meaning of these lines, Amma launched the most successful scheme -- Self Help Groups for the welfare of women to make them stand on their own feet.

Linking loans to Self Help Groups with banks has been implemented from 1992. After the linkage of Self Help Groups with the banks, loans and other financial services actually reached the poor, which help many poor families start their enterprises, thereby earning revenue for their families. The linkage also helped them to get away from the clutches of poverty and run their families in a better way and helped them stand on their own feet.

Apart from starting 1.2 lakh new Self Help groups since 2011 through this scheme, 20,64,678 Self Help Groups were given bank loan to the tune of Rs.57,876.71 crore.

The bank loans helped the SHGs to start units of their own. This disbursement of loan amount was more than the target of Rs.50,000 crore. I am happy to inform that in the year 2018-2019, against the target of

Rs.11,000 crore as bank loan to 2,95,612 SHGs, Rs.11,449 crore has been disbursed.

In the financial year 2019-2020, Rs.12,500 crore has been fixed as target for bank loan and so far Rs.5,247 crore has been given. In this august function I am happy to announce that Rs.150 crore is to be given as bank loan to SHGs.

I am happy to inaugurate schemes worth Rs.550.50 crore in this function. The schemes include the Sholinganallur-Karapakkam Underground Drainage Scheme, costing Rs.110.92 crore, Rs.95.51 crore Drinking Water Improvement Scheme for Arakkonam Municipality in Vellore District, Rs.73.08 crore Mettur Drinking Water Improvement Scheme in Salem District, and underground drainage scheme costing Rs.67.63 crore for Thiruvottiyur.

Similarly, foundation stone was laid at the function for projects worth Rs.112.52 crore, including for a railway over-bridge at a cost of Rs.61.98 crore on the railway level-crossing between Kolathur and Villivakkam and a bridge across Puzhal surplus canal in Vadaperumbakkam, Aamullavoyal and Burma Nagar at a cost of Rs.49.56 crore.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also distributed appointment orders to 279 heirs of employees who died in harness when they were in service in Corporations and Municipalities.

I am happy to inform that since Amma's Government took the reins of Government till date, 47,552 works have been started valued at Rs.33,509.20 crore. Foundation stones have been laid for another 7,906 works to be executed at a cost of Rs.22,687.74 crore.

The State Government, treading the path laid down by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has been working hard day and night with the sole motive of improving the living conditions of people. This is truly a people's Government and common men like us tell only the truth to the people.

While referring to the age-old dictum that 'Truth alone Triumphs', a story comes to my mind.

In a town, there was an aged man who worked in the farm of a landlord. He carried out his duties entrusted to him with integrity. In the same farm, another employee Kandan was also working. He was quite the opposite to the aged man. Whenever he saw the landlord, he would make flattering statements saying that

you have done many things for my family and my present position is due only to you. He did not involve himself truly in his work but tried to get into the good books of the landlord through shortcut methods.

One day, the landlord asked Kandan to get pesticides for spraying on the crops in the farm. Kandan, with the sole view of bringing disrepute to the aged man, purchased spurious pesticides and handed it to the aged man asking him to spray the pesticides on crops in the farm. On looking at the 'spurious pesticide' the aged man got suspicious and gave it to a laboratory for testing its genuineness. At the laboratory, they said that it was not an original pesticide and it would only spoil the crops if it was sprayed. Shocked at the revelation of the lab people, the aged man informed the landlord. Immediately, the landlord summoned Kandan and questioned him. Kandan confessed to his guilt and the landlord punished him. Praising the old man for his integrity, the landlord not only gave him presents but also increased his salary. This shows that whenever you are true to your duty you will be rewarded.

This moral of the story is that if you work sincerely and truly, rewards will come to you automatically.

You have all been entrusted with the noble task of taking Government welfare schemes to the people. I appeal to you to be sincere in your job as this will help you come up in life and also bring good name to the Government.

Local bodies that meet the basic and day-to-day requirements of people are the biggest administrative infrastructure. If the local bodies function efficiently, the goodwill of the people for the Government will increase. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma allotted more funds to local bodies both in rural and urban areas so that they are in a position to meet the basic requirements of people.

This Government is the people's Government which implements schemes that are required by the people. I would like to inform you that through the local bodies the Government will successfully implement schemes to the satisfaction of the people. I thank the Hon'ble Minister for Local Administration for the excellent arrangements he has made for the function and the Department Secretary for his able support to the Hon'ble Minister and the Chief Secretary.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

Hon'ble Chief Minister commences work for global Yoga and Naturopathy centre

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami opened at the Secretariat on 06.11.2019 through video conferencing, PET-CT scan equipment, installed at a cost of Rs.10 crore at the Government Rajaji Hospital, Madurai, declared open hospital buildings costing Rs.30.49 crore and laid the foundation stone for an International Yoga and Naturopathy Science Centre, to come up at a cost of Rs.96.31 crore at Chengalpattu Government Medical College complex.

With the noble ideal of making available to the poor un-hindered high class medical facilities, the Tamil Nadu Government, functioning on the lines of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, is implementing many pioneering schemes like strengthening the infrastructure facilities in Government medical college hospitals, Government District headquarters hospitals, Taluk and non-Taluk hospitals, installing modern medical equipment, setting up new primary health centres, arranging quality medical facilities for people living in areas not easily accessible, in their own places and providing high-class medical facilities utilizing the technological developments in the medical sector.

Accordingly, the Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated the PET-CT scan equipment at the Government Rajaji Hospital, Madurai. He also declared open hospital buildings constructed at a total cost of Rs.30.49 crore. They are: maternity and special centre for child welfare building (Rs.18 crore) at Tiruppur Government District headquarters hospital, Tiruppur District; an out-patient ward (Rs.2 crore) at Denkanikottai Government hospital, a comprehensive emergency obstetrics and new born care centre (Rs.1.20 crore) at Hosur Government hospital

(both in Krishnagiri District); comprehensive emergency obstetrics and new born care centres at a cost of Rs.1.20 crore each at Chidambaram Government hospital, Cuddalore District and at Karaikudi Government hospital, Sivagangai District; District early intervention centres at a cost of Rs.One crore each at the Namakkal and Tiruppur District Government Headquarters Hospitals, a special neo-natal maintenance ward (Rs.60 lakh) at Udumalaipettai Government hospital, Tiruppur District;

On behalf of Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, a building constructed for the primary health centre (Rs.60 lakh) at Manamthavizhntha Puttur, Cuddalore District, buildings for the primary health centres at Sitling and Muthampatti (Rs.1.29 crore) in Dharmapuri District, building for Thiruvengadam primary health centre (Rs.55 lakh), Tirunelveli District, buildings for primary health centres at Kuchanur, Theni District and at Avikalapatti in Tiruchi District (Rs.1.20 crore) and an out-patient ward building at Siruvanthadu primary health centre, Villupuram District (Rs.65 lakh).

The Hon'ble Chief Minister announced in the Legislative Assembly on 25.06.2018 under Rule 110 that an International Yoga and Naturopathy Science Centre of global standards would be set up on a 50-acre area in the Chengalpattu Government medical college complex, and it would be the first of its kind in India for encouraging yoga and naturopathy in Tamil Nadu.

In accordance with that announcement, the Hon'ble Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for the centre, estimated to come up at a cost of Rs.96.31 crore.

The 2019-2020 demands for grants for the Department of Health and Family Welfare carried an assurance that hot line telephone facility would be provided in all important Government hospitals to get police assistance immediately to ensure the safety of doctors and nurses so that they could work fearlessly and offer full-fledged service. To fulfill the assurance, a decision was taken to provide the hot line phone facility in 80 Government hospitals in the first phase. Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated the hot line phone facility in Tiruvallur Government District headquarters hospital and in Tambaram Government hospital.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also presented appointment orders to 7 persons as a token of distributing 365 such orders to medical staff, selected by the Medical Services Recruitment Board.

Hon’ble Chief Minister inspects overflowing Vellarivelli lake

Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** inspected the Vellarivelli lake on 09.11.2019, which reached its full capacity after 42 years and welcomed the overflowing waters by strewing rose petals (*English Translation*).

Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami, who inspected the Vellarivelli Lake which overflowed its full capacity after 42 years, celebrated the occasion by sprinkling rose petals on the overflowing waters. Over 500 Villagers and farmers, who participated, greeted the Hon’ble Chief Minister.

The Vellarivelli Lake in Vellarivelli Panchayat in Edappadi Panchayat Union in Salem District is spread over 52 acres. Due to insufficient rains in this area, the Lake remained dry for a long time.

The Hon’ble Chief Minister, with a view to provide water to the Lake took steps to divert the surplus water of the East Bank Canal of the Mettur Reservoir at Pudupatti Village. Two giant wells and a pumping station were set up at a cost of Rs.75 lakh at the Village and from there water was taken by pipes for 3.8 k.m. to the Lake.

Further under the THAI Scheme, the banks of the Lake were de-silted and strengthened and sluices were repaired at a cost of Rs.25 lakh. Heavy monsoon rains and surplus water from the pumping station helped the Lake reach its full level and it started surplussing. The surplus water released from the Lake reached Arasiramani Kullampatti Lake. The water from the Lake was then taken to Sarabanga River. Due to this, the ground water level in the wells and bore pumps in and around the river has improved substantially. As there is sufficient water in the agriculture wells and bore wells, farmers are extremely happy.

Hitches cleared to give approval for 21 industrial projects worth Rs.8,120 crore

The first meeting of the High Power Committee on Investment Facilitation and Single Window Clearance was held under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami on 01.11.2019.

The Tamil Nadu Government, treading the path laid down by the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, under the leadership of the Hon'ble Chief Minister has been taking various measures repeatedly to attract investments for industries in the State. The steps to attract more investments include enactment of the Tamil Nadu Business Facilitation Act 2018, formation of Single Window Clearance Portal, appointment of guidance officers for the MoUs signed during the Global Investors Meet 2019, Hon'ble Chief Minister's tour to Britain, the US and Dubai to attract investments, opening special counters for various countries at the Industrial Guidance Bureau, Industrially Rising Tamil Nadu Scheme, Investment Guidance Bureau in Hon'ble Chief Minister's Office and formation of High Power Committee on Investment Facilitation and Single Window Clearance.

In the first meeting of the high power committee on Investment Facilitation and Single Window Clearance, held at the Secretariat on 01.11.2019 under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, issues relating to industrial clearances given through the single window scheme, pending big industrial schemes, the current status of schemes discussed at the Global Investors Meet 2019 and issues relating to Small, Micro and Medium Industries were discussed. The meeting also gave approval to 21 industrial projects for which Government approval was awaited and was pending in different stages. Through the clearance of these 21 industrial projects, about Rs.8,120 crore investment will come into fruition and provide assured employment opportunities to 16,000 people.

The schemes will be implemented in Chennai, Kancheepuram, Tiruvallur, Kovai, Salem, Villupuram, Tiruvannamalai, Dindigul and Tiruchirapalli Districts.

'May brotherhood and peace prevail'

Milad-un-Nabi greetings of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** on 09.11.2019 *(English Translation).*

I am happy to convey my hearty greetings to the entire Islamic community that is joyously celebrating the birth anniversary of Prophet Mohammed as 'Milad-un-Nabi' .

Prophet Mohammed preached: 'If you can lead a life without thinking of harming anybody, do so. This is my path. The one who loves my path, loves me'. Keeping in mind the Prophet's advice, people should lead a life of righteousness cherishing good thoughts.

Considering the interests of Muslims, the Tamil Nadu Government that treads the path of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, is implementing many welfare measures like supplying rice to mosques during the holy month of Ramzan for the preparation of porridge, making an annual allotment of Rs.6 crore for undertaking the Hajj pilgrimage, supplying sandalwood billets every year to the Nagore Dargah for the '*sandhana koodu*' festival, giving a monthly honorarium of Rs.20,000 to Kazis and raising the monthly pension of Ulemas to Rs.1,500.

On this golden day of the Prophet's birth who said 'all good deeds are charity', I look forward to the enhancement of love, prevalence of peace and fostering of brotherhood in the world. Once again, my 'Milad-un-Nabi' greetings to all the brothers and sisters of the Islamic community.

Applications invited for Computer Tamil Award

The Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, with a view to develop and propagate Computer Tamil throughout the world, announced in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 14.05.2013 under Rule 110, that an Award of Rs.1 lakh and one sovereign gold will be given to those who develop the best software in Tamil.

Every year the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami gives the Award either to an individual or to a firm that develops the Best Computer Software in Tamil.

Applications are invited from individuals or from firms for the Chief Minister's Computer Tamil Award for the year 2019. Softwares that were developed in the years 2016, 2017 and 2018 will alone be considered for the Award.

Applications for the Award can be downloaded from the site of Tamil Development without any fee.

The last date for receipt of completed applications is 31.12.2019. The application should be sent to the Director of Tamil Development, Tamil Development Complex, Tamil Road, Egmore, Chennai 600 008.

Contact no: 044 28190412 / 28190413

Mail ID: tvt.budget@gmail.com

Website: www.tamilvalarchithurai.com

News in Picture

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami**, presented at the Secretariat on 05.11.2019, cheques for a total sum of Rs.1,67,20,225 to the Executive Officer of Sri Padmanabhaswamy Temple, Thiruvananthapuram towards settlement of '*Dastik*' amount arrears to the Sri Padmanabhaswamy temple from the year 2001 to 2019. The payment was made on behalf of the Revenue Department.

Amma's dream project will make Districts fertile and prosperous

Hon'ble Chief Minister envisages Cauvery-Gundaru link becoming a reality as a Centre-State project

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** after distributing welfare assistance, laying foundation for new scheme works and launching completed works under the Chief Minister Special Grievance Redressal Scheme at Konganapuram, Salem District on 09.11.2019 *(English Translation)*

Bowing to Goddess Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma,

At the outset, I offer my respects to all of you participating in this event of distribution of welfare assistance, laying foundation for new scheme works and declaring open completed works under the Chief Minister's Special Grievance Redressal scheme.

I first inaugurated the Chief Minister's Special Grievance Redressal Scheme in the panchayat areas of Nangavalli, Edappadi and Konganapuram in the Edappadi Assembly constituency, Salem District. A Government order was issued for the collection of petitions under this scheme in all the 234 Assembly Constituencies of Tamil Nadu for immediate redressal. On the basis of the announcement made at that time that these petitions would be disposed of in two months, Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government has now turned out to be the only Government that has resolved grievances in just one-and- a-half months.

Through this scheme, 9,72,216 petitions were received from all over Tamil Nadu; 52.58 per cent of them, that is 5,11,186 petitions were taken up for consideration; 45 per cent, that is 4,37,492 petitions were rejected on various counts; 2.42 per cent, that is 23,538 petitions were kept in abeyance. Through this drive, I wish to state how speedily our Government is executing

the announced programmes. This is an example of the Government presenting welfare assistance to eligible persons after examining their petitions. Also, I have issued an order to review the rejected petitions and find ways and means to solve the grievances if there are any petitions from eligible persons.

I announced that old age pension would be given to 5 lakh persons in Tamil Nadu and I started it in Salem District. We have created a condition where senior citizens in all Districts will get the pension. It was mentioned that old-age pension seeking petitions, from persons with assets valued at more than Rs.50,000 had been rejected. In earlier times, Rs.50,000 was a considerable amount. I advised that in present-day conditions, the eligibility criterion should be changed and I have ordered that it should be enhanced to Rs.1 lakh. Our officials will implement this immediately. On the basis of this revised criterion, rejected petitions will be examined.

Petitions from rural people seeking issue of pattas and name change in pattas will be honoured. Orders have been issued for construction of houses to persons from poor families in a phased manner after scrutinizing their petitions. Our Government will turn Tamil Nadu into a slum-free State in about 5 years. We are toiling to make Tamil Nadu the first state in India to achieve this. I am bound to congratulate officials who extend their full co-operation to this. I was born and brought up in a village; I have lived among you. As I have worked shoulder to shoulder with you, I have knowledge of the problems people face. Our Chief Secretary to Government also belongs to Salem District; he also hails from a village and understands the needs of village people. As one who has understood the problems of people, he is capable of taking the necessary steps to implement Government's schemes quickly. This should not be construed as neglecting other Districts. The demands of people of all Districts all over Tamil Nadu will be fulfilled.

The Secretary to the Department of Agriculture, Respected Gagandeep Singh Bedi is an excellent Secretary, capable of implementing Government schemes expeditely and in an excellent manner.

Respected Thiru. Radhakrishnan, Commissioner, Revenue Administration had worked as Salem District Collector. He knows this District very well. As we have such officers who can execute the given work in an excellent manner, we are able to implement the Government's schemes speedily. Schemes can be executed wholly only when both Government and officers work in the right manner. I proudly

say that if Tamil Nadu is in the forefront in bagging a greater number of national awards, it is because all our officials are working in a remarkable manner.

I hail from an agricultural family. For agriculture, water is vital. There has been scarcity of water, both for agriculture and drinking purposes, due to monsoon failure in the last 2 or 3 years. We have created a water management set up just to avert this situation in future and to conserve monsoon rain water without wasting even a drop of water.

'*Kudimaramathu*' scheme was launched to dredge lakes and tanks and our Government is on a victorious march by converting that scheme into a people's movement. I had announced that the surplus water of Mettur dam in our area would be used, as a pioneering project, to fill up, in the first phase, 100 lakes in the Panchayat Unions of Tharamangalam , Mecheri, Nangavalli, Edappadi, Konganapuram, Sankagiri and Magudanchavadi in the Assembly Constituencies of Mettur, Omalur and Edappadi, at a cost of Rs.615 crore. Foundation stone will be laid for this scheme in April next. The project will be completed in a year. To make use of the surplus water draining into the sea, we have started this work of filling up 100 lakes through the water management scheme. This scheme will be gradually extended to the whole of Tamil Nadu.

When the project of linking Godavari-Cauvery rivers is implemented, water will be pumped to a distance of 50 kms – from Mettur to Mayanur barrage, Karur – on either side of the river bank, for filling up all lakes. This is our goal and we will certainly implement it. The then Central Water Resources Minister Thiru. Nitin Gadkari told a public meeting at Salem during the Parliament election campaign that after Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri.Narendra Modi gets re-elected as Prime Minister, Godavari-Cauvery link scheme would be implemented. The Present Central Minister for Water Resources has taken note of this scheme. A detailed project report is being prepared. That project is Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's dream project. Though Amma is no more, Amma's Government will persist with it and implement it. Accordingly, we propose to link that scheme from Karur to Gundaru. Our Government will certainly execute Cauvery-Gundaru link scheme. Before next July, foundation will be laid for the scheme. Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had already mentioned about this scheme. Our Government has sent a report to the Centre for the implementation of Amma's dream project of Cauvery-Gundaru link scheme. It is under the Centre's scrutiny. As soon as permission is granted, Cauvery-Gundaru link will be implemented as a joint scheme of the Central and State Governments. The scheme will be executed in stages. When the link is established from Mayanur barrage, Karur to Gundaru, the surplus water will be conveyed through a canal, making Pudukkottai and Sivagangai Districts fertile. Vaigai dam will be filled up bringing fertility to the Districts of Ramanathapuram, Dindigul, Theni and Virudhunagar. Our Government will take steps to make not only Salem District, but also all the southern Districts fertile. We will definitely implement this scheme.

While we are executing countless schemes, the leader of the opposition Thiru. Stalin says this Government has not done anything and questions whether there is a Government at all. Thiru.Stalin, all our schemes will benefit the farmers in future also. We want the future of Tamil Nadu to be bright, we want to meet the water needs of farmers and drinking water needs

of people in full. Creating a condition where there is no water scarcity in Tamil Nadu, is our goal.

Through the Chief Minister's Special Grievance Redressal scheme, 56,267 petitions were received in Salem District, of which 26,712 were taken up for consideration and 27,010 were rejected on various grounds. An order has been issued to re-examine the rejected petitions too and provide necessary assistance to the eligible persons. The rest of the petitions – 2,545 – are under Government's examination. They too, will be solved. I wish to point out at this time, on what categories, the 26,712 petitions that were taken up for consideration, were segregated and scrutinized and solutions found.

Amma's Government is the only Government that distributes old age pension to 12,989 persons in Salem District alone at the same time. We have started this work in the first phase by way of fulfilling our promises. This will be extended further. Officers should visit the residential localities of Adi Dravidars and the poor and receive petitions. Petitions should be received directly from senior citizens and all eligible elders should be given the pension.

I am proud to state that grievances in 26,712 petitions were redressed– 7,734 connected with change of name in patta, 2,841 related to urban infrastructure, 91 connected with public distribution system, 106 related to social welfare, 192 related to basic amenities and the Departments of Public Health and Transport, 181 connected with Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Departments, 81 connected with Adi Dravidar and BC welfare, 131 related to Education Department, 2 related to ex-servicemen welfare, 284 connected with law and order and 2,080 petitions concerning other matters.

The rejected 29,555 petitions will be taken up again for scrutiny and solutions will be found for eligible petitions. So, this is the people's Government; a Government that fulfills all your demands. Promises given in Edappadi Assembly constituency during the election campaign have all been honoured. Hon'ble Amma started an Arts and Science College and a B.Ed. College at Ettikottai. A Polytechnic College will be started at Nangavalli. We have upgraded Middle Schools into High Schools, High Schools into Higher Secondary Schools and Primary Health Centres into Upgraded Primary Health Centres.

On the basis of the demands made by people, village roads have been repaired in Salem District. Flyover, railway overbridge and bridge across river have all been provided. I wish to State that bridges are constructed at various places across Odais.

Through the Revenue Department, financial assistance is given today to elders, widows, those deserted by husbands and to differently-abled persons as also house site patta and town survey patta to eligible people. Old age pension has been given through this event to 1,600 beneficiaries from among the petitions received so far in Edappadi Assembly constituency.

Under the Chief Minister's Solar Powered Green House scheme, 110 persons have benefited through the Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj. Nearly Rs.7 crore subsidy has been disbursed to 400 beneficiaries for house construction under the Prime Minister housing scheme. Through '*Magalir Udhavi Thittam*', assistance to 224 panchayat level federations, bank loan to 37 women self help groups having a membership of 444 and Amma two-wheelers to 1,363 working women have been distributed. Loan and subsidy assistance to

an extent of Rs.7,90,37,000 have been given to 2,034 women. Under the sub mission of Agriculture Mechanisation, agriculture implements worth Rs.18,04,300 have been distributed – tractor to 2 farmers under the sub mission of Agriculture Mechanization and a value-added machinery subsidy to one farmer under the rain-fed agriculture scheme.

Under the scheme of distribution of milch cows at no cost, 100 cows costing Rs.39,09,500 have been distributed to 100 beneficiaries. In Forest Department, 52 beneficiaries were given Rs.8.85 lakh as loan cum subsidy to start small industries under the forest development scheme. Through the Department of Backward Classes and Minorities Welfare, welfare assistance to 20 beneficiaries and through higher education Department, laptops worth Rs.79,03,800 to 644 students studying in Vanavasi and Salem Government Polytechnic colleges were given. Various subsidy assistances worth Rs.14,43,400 were given to 25 farmers in Agriculture and Horticulture Departments. Four sewing machines, valued at Rs.37,400 were distributed at no cost to 4 beneficiaries through the Department of Adi Dravidar and Scheduled tribes. Through the co-operative Department loan assistance to the tune of Rs.6,26,03,000 was distributed to 736 beneficiaries – crop loan to 467 persons, medium-term loan to 150 persons and loan to 119 women Self Help Groups. Financial assistance was given to 9 pregnant women under Dr.Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Benefit Scheme through the Department of Health and Family Welfare. On behalf of social welfare Department 42 sewing machines worth Rs.1.89 lakh were distributed at no cost to 42 beneficiaries. Through this event, a total of 5,723 beneficiaries are given welfare assistance to an extent of Rs.25,89,42,200.

Today, foundation has been laid on behalf of Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board, for a new water supply scheme work under the Rehabilitation and Improvement scheme, costing Rs.47.53 crore, to supply water to 450 apartments in the Panchayat Unions of Edappadi and Konganapuram from the Iruppali Combined Water Supply scheme.

On behalf of the Tamil Nadu Housing Board, foundation is laid today for development of 704 house sites - 167 sites for High income groups, 283 for MIG and 254 for LIG groups – near the Edappadi-Kumarapalayam road at a cost of Rs.30.36 crore.

On behalf of the District Rural Development Agency of the Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, 109 new scheme works costing Rs.9,37,71,000 have been started under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.

In today's function, foundation stone is laid for 116 new scheme works costing Rs.112,35,71,000. They are for rehabilitation of Anna Park (Rs.3.90 crore) and 20 Anganwadi centres (Rs.6 crore) under the Smart City programme of Salem Municipal Corporation; for construction of agriculture trade centre (Rs.8.80 crore) at Mecheri Olappatti Village on behalf of the Agriculture Marketing and Agri Business Department; a high-level bridge across Vasishta Nadhi (Rs.5.99 crore) on the Aragalur-Periyeri road in Thalaivasal Panchayat Union, Salem District under NABARD scheme on behalf of Highways Department (NABARD village roads); for construction of a building for Accident and Trauma treatment ward (Rs.40 lakh) at Mettur Government District Headquarters Hospital on behalf of Public Health and Family Welfare Department.

Completed works that have been declared open today are: water supply to the newly found 51 apartments (Rs.9.50 crore) – 23 in Edappadi Panchayat Union and 28 in Konganapuram Union-in the already existing combined water supply scheme for 327 apartments in the Panchayat Unions of Edappadi, Konganapuram and Magundanchavadi; a high-rise bridge across Ponniyaru Odai on Goundaneri road that branches of at Edappadi on Magundanchavadi-Kumarapalayam road in Magundanchavadi Panchayat Union (Rs.1.03 crore) (Highways Department - NABARD and Village roads); a high-rise bridge across Chinnankadu Odai (Rs.1.58 crore) on the Kottaimedu-Erumakkaran Valaivu road in Tharamangalam Panchayat Union; and the newly built Government Coconut Nursery Safety building (Rs.30 lakh) at Kadayampatti under the NABARD scheme (Agriculture Engineering Department).

I have also declared open on behalf of Co-operation Department 24 Amma mini super markets for the use of people.

Hon'ble Chief Minister thanks Hon'ble Prime Minister for sanctioning six medical colleges

Statement issued by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami,** on 23.10.2019, thanking the Hon'ble Prime Minister for giving permission to start 6 Government Medical Colleges in the State at the same time.

I placed a demand to the Hon'ble Prime Minister to sanction Central Government permission to set up Government Medical Colleges in the six districts of Virudhunagar, Ramanathapuram, Dindigul, Namakkal, Tiruppur and The Nilgiris and also to sanction funds under the Central Government scheme. The Tamil Nadu Government also forwarded the demand to the Central Government. As directed by the Central Government, the land was immediately allotted for setting up the new Government Medical Colleges in the districts. Subsequently, I submitted the demand to the Central Government for its permission to start the Medical Colleges. Accepting my demand, the Central Government today issued orders for setting up 6 Government Medical Colleges in the State.

This is the first time in the history of the State that permission was accorded to start 6 Government Medical Colleges in the State simultaneously. The Central Government also permitted an estimate of Rs.1,950 crore and sanctioned Rs.1,170 crore as its share. The Tamil Nadu Government will give its share of Rs.780 crore.

I thank the Hon'ble Prime Minister on my personal behalf and on behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu for giving special permission to start 6 Government medical colleges in the State simultaneously.

Hon’ble Chief Minister lauds TANUVAS doctors for operating on cow to rid it of 52 kg of plastic

Hon’ble Chief Minister congratulates Veterinary Doctors of the Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University for their successful operation on a cow.

Thiru. Muniratnam of Thirumullaivoil took his 6-year-old cow to a near-by veterinary doctor with a complaint that the cow was finding it difficult to take feed and passing urine and dung. It was not yielding adequate milk. On the doctor’s advice, Muniratnam took his cow to the Madras Veterinary College on 15.10.2019 for advanced treatment.

On examining the cow, doctors found that there was lot of plastic waste in the cow’s stomach and took the cow to the operation theatre of the Veterinary College. By conducting laparotomy on the bovine, on 18.10.2019 at 11.00 a.m. the doctors removed 52 kg of plastic waste. The waste included plastic paper used for food and milk packing and aluminum foil. The doctors also removed dangerous objects such as pins, safety pins, screws and coins from the stomach of the cow. After the treatment, the cow became normal.

The operation was conducted under the leadership of Director of Clinics Dr.S.Balasubramanian of the Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University.

The incident shows that use of plastics causes damage not only to the earth but also to animals. Considering the importance of animals and to provide protected environment to future generations, the Tamil Nadu Government not only banned the use of one-time plastics in the State from January 1st, 2019, but also suggested alternative materials to plastics.

Veterinary Department personnel throughout the State have been advised to undertake an awareness campaign regarding rearing of animals and safeguarding the animals from such incidents.

Hon’ble Chief Minister Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami congratulated the team of doctors who successfully performed the operation on the cow. ■

Buildings for ITIs at Chinnasalem, Tindivanam

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami declared open through video conferencing at the Secretariat on 08.11.2019, buildings for Government Industrial Training Institutes and quarters for trainers, constructed at Chinnasalem, Villupuram District at a cost of Rs.5.56 crore and at Tindivanam at a cost of Rs.4.53 crore. Also declared open were Government ITI buildings across the State at a cost of Rs.6.33 crore and integrated office complexes at a cost of Rs.9.05 crore for labour officers.

To fulfill the expectations of students who wish to join Industrial Training Institutes in Tamil Nadu and create human resources with industrial skill and considering the need to start more Government Industrial Training Institutes, the Tamil Nadu Government that follows the path of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, is implementing many schemes like opening new Government ITIs and providing needed infrastructure facilities to the existing institutes. Accordingly, the buildings at Chinnasalem and Tindivanam were declared open.

Other Government buildings declared open were: ITI building at Gudalur, The Nilgiris District (Rs.2.68 crore); classroom and workshop buildings for students of the Electrician and Fitter courses at the Government ITI at Tiruchendur, Thoothukudi District (Rs.80 lakh); classroom and workshop for the students of Technician, Power Electronics course at the Cuddalore Government ITI for Women, Cuddalore District (Rs.62 lakh); classroom and workshop for students of Mechanic course at the Pullambadi Government ITI for Women, Tiruchirapalli District (Rs.81 lakh); classroom and workshop for students of the Operator, Advanced Machine Tools course at the Ranipettai Government ITI, Vellore District (Rs.82 lakh) and classroom and workshop for students of Mechanic, Refrigeration and AC Mechanic courses at Salem ITI for women (Rs.60 lakh).

Also, buildings for integrated office complexes for Labour Officers, constructed on behalf of Tamil Nadu Construction Workers Welfare Board at Melmonavur, Vellore, Vellore District (Rs.4.25 crore), at Konam, Nagercoil, Kanniyakumari District (Rs.2.80 crore) and at Palaniappa Nagar, Pudukkottai, Pudukkottai District (Rs.2 crore) were declared open. Total cost of the buildings opened is Rs.25.47 crore.

Hon'ble Chief Minister opens TANCEM's expanded cement plant at Ariyalur

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, at the Secretariat on 01.11.2019, declared open through video conferencing the expanded Cement factory of Tamil Nadu Cements Corporation Ltd., at Ariyalur in Ariyalur District, at a cost of Rs.809.09 crore. The expanded cement factory will have a production capacity of 10 lakh tonnes from 2020-2021.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma in the 2011-2012 Budget proposals announced that steps would be taken to increase the production capacity of Tamil Nadu Cement's Factory at Ariyalur from 5 lakh tonnes to 15 lakh tonnes. As a follow up of the announcement, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma laid the foundation for an additional unit of Tamil Nadu Cements Corporation Ltd., at Ariyalur on 29.01.2016.

For the project, M/s.Development Consultants Pvt. Ltd., Kolkata, was nominated as the management advisor and M/s.L&T for construction activities with the EPC as contractor for installation work of the new plant.

As the project has been completed, the expanded cement unit of the Tamil Nadu Cements Corporation Ltd., at Ariyalur was declared open on 01.11.2019 by Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru.Edappadi K.Palaniswami from the Secretariat through video conferencing. The new plant will adopt the latest technologies followed by modern cement factories. Environment gadgets have been installed to follow the environmental norms of the Pollution Control Board. The expanded unit will manufacture 10 lakh tonnes of cement from the year 2020-2021. Through the new plant, the total capacity of TANCEM will increase from the existing 7 lakh tonnes to 17 lakh tonnes. The new plant will facilitate direct employment of 250 people and indirect appointment of 1,000 people.

Three executives – Mechanical Engineering, 4 Central Control Room Operators, 2 Chemists and 1 X-ray Inspector, 1 Accountant, and 2 Drivers have been appointed for the newly expanded plant. As a token, the Hon'ble Chief Minister handed over appointment orders to 7 persons on the occasion.

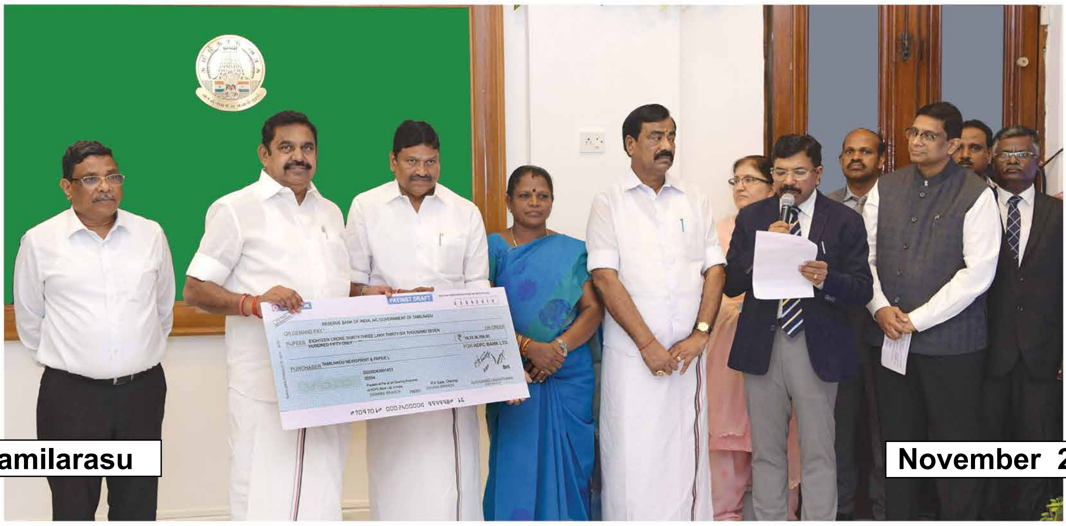
On the occasion, Hon'ble Minister for Industries Thiru. M.C.Sampath showed the ISO 9001:2015 certificate issued by the Bureau of Indian Standards to TANCEM's office and to the Ariyalur Cement unit, to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, who congratulated the unit employees for winning the Award.

News in Picture

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru.Edappadi K.Palaniswami** congratulated Thiru.V.Viswanathan, President of the Subramaniya Siva Co-operative Sugar Mills Ltd., Dharmapuri District, at the Secretariat on 01.11.2019 when the latter showed him the National Efficiency Award and Certificate for best financial management, presented to the factory by the National Federation of Co-operative Sugar Factories at a function held at New Delhi on 28.08.2019. The factory bagged the award for the 2018-2019 sugarcane crushing season in the category 'Other Recovery Area' (below 10 per cent).

Hon'ble Chief Minister lays foundation stone for expansion of TNPL's paper board unit

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru.Edappadi K.Palaniswami, at the Secretariat on 01.11.2019, laid the foundation stone for Rs.1,100 crore expansion of the multi-layer paper board unit of the Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Papers Ltd., at Mondippatti Village, Manapparai Taluk in Tiruchirappalli District, on behalf of the Industries Department, through video conferencing.

As per the MoU signed during the Global Investors' Meet 2019 and as a part of the first phase of expansion of the multi-layer paper board unit of the TNPL at a cost of Rs.1,100 crore, the Hon'ble Chief Minister laid the foundation for the 400 metric tonne Wood Pulping Plant, Chemical Recovery Plant and 20 Megawatt Generator Plant. The expansion of the plant is to be done in two phases at a total cost of Rs.2,520 crore.

Hon'ble Minister for Industries Thiru.M.C. Sampath handed over a cheque for Rs.18.33 crore, being the Tamil Nadu Government's for the year 2018-2019 equity share of the Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Papers Ltd., to Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami, who also released 'My Stamp', the postal cover of the Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Papers Ltd., on the occasion.